

# *THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION*

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1 Corinthians 15:11-21

<sup>11</sup> Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. <sup>12</sup> We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

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1 Corinthians 15:11-21

<sup>13</sup> If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup> For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

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1 Corinthians 15:11-21

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

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1 Corinthians 15:11-21

<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

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1 Corinthians 15:11-21

<sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

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1 Corinthians 15:11-21

<sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

# RENEWAL

IN THE NEW YEAR

**NEW CREATIONS**

1 **Dark**, dark is the valley,  
**Faint** the light at my feet...

...

3 **Brief**, brief are my days...

R He is...

**My strength** when I cannot...

**Peace** when all my pow'r...

**Hope**, although the night...

**My song**, for He has rescued...

**Joy**, now He has set me free...

My God is all I need.

1 **Dark**, dark is the valley,  
**Faint** the light at my feet...

3 **Brief**, brief are my days...

Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me. Ps. 23:4

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Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path. Ps. 119:105

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For our light affliction, which is but for a  
moment, is working for us a far more  
exceeding and eternal weight of glory,  
2 Cor. 4:17

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

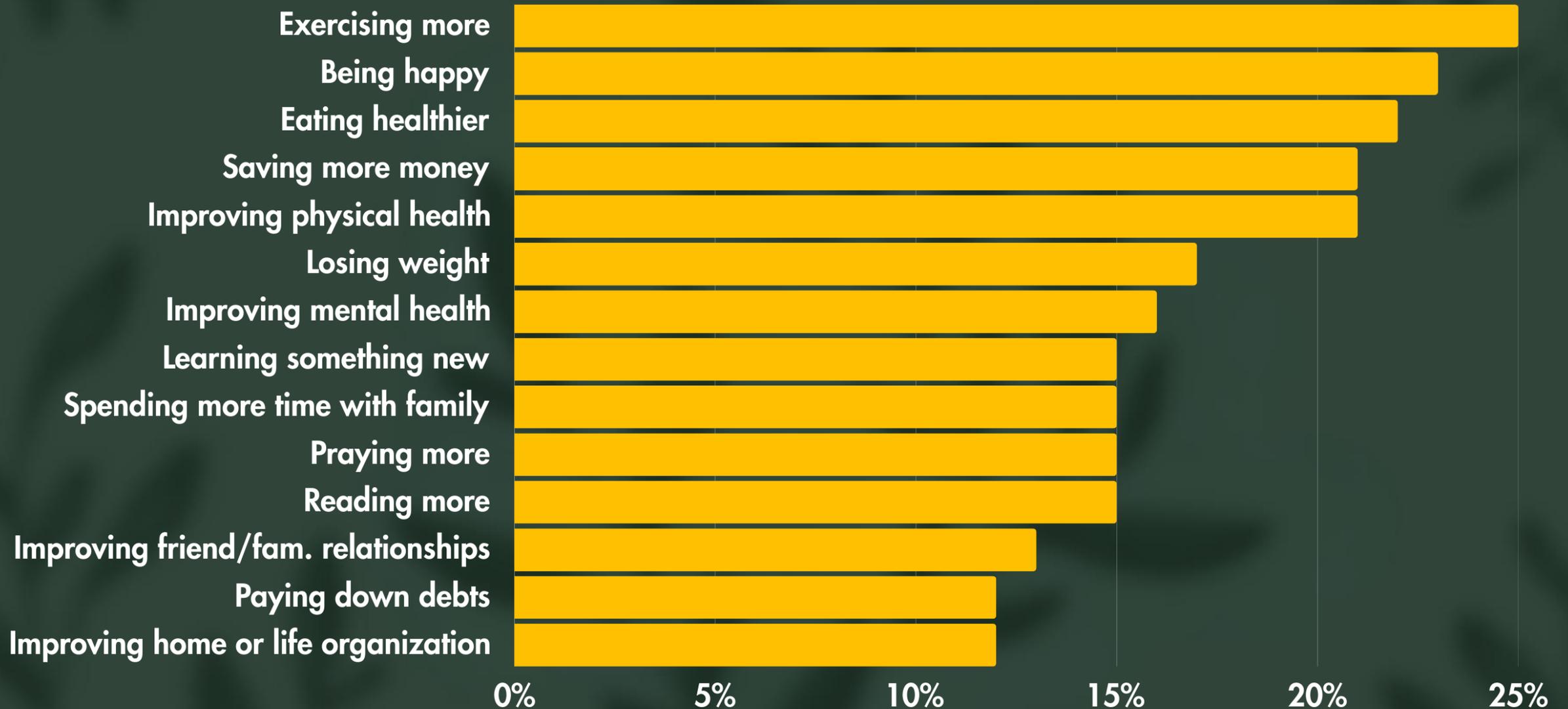
2 Corinthians 4:16

# RENEWAL

IN THE NEW YEAR

**NEW CREATIONS**

# Top Resolutions for 2026



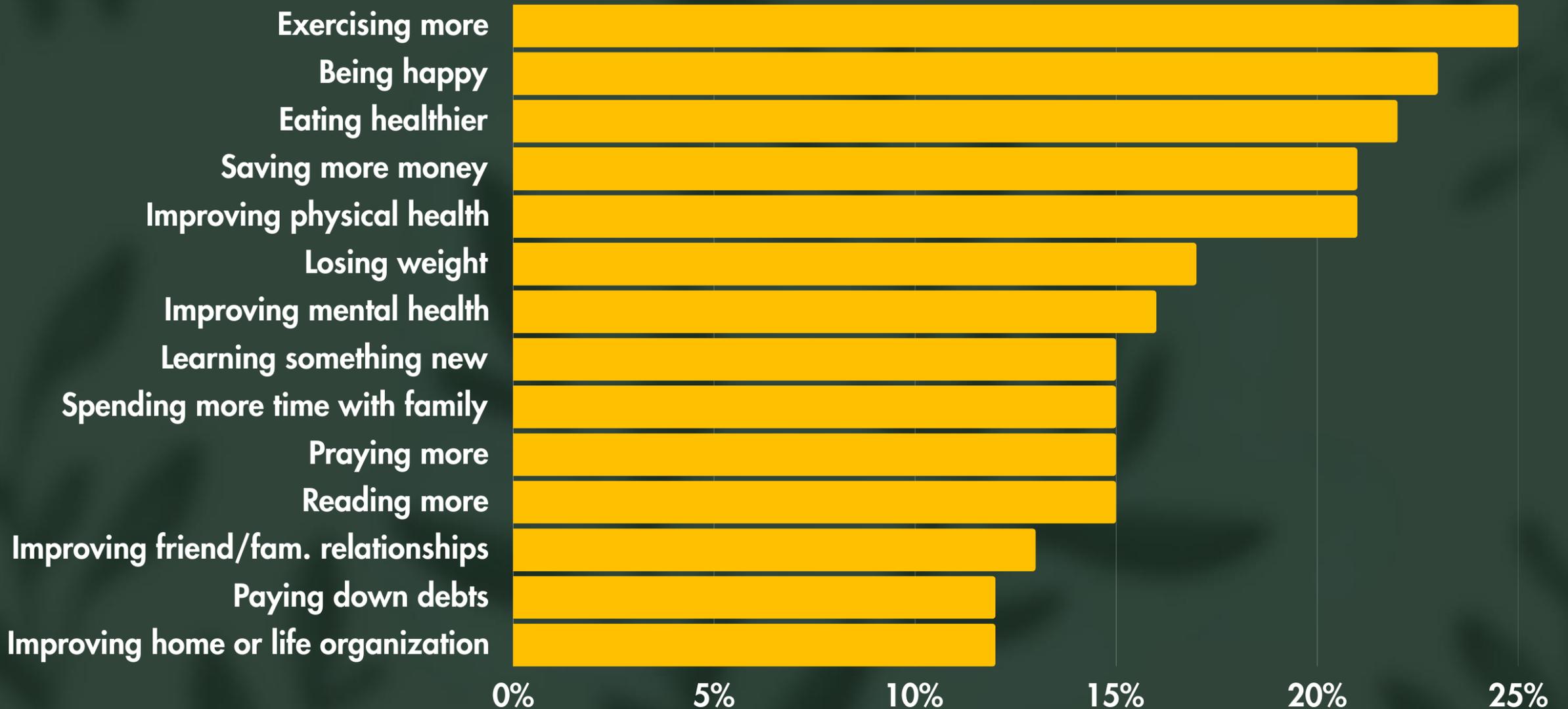
Source: YouGov

Imagine there's no heaven,  
It's easy if you try.  
No hell below us,  
Above us, only sky.

Imagine all the people,  
Livin' for today...

- John Lennon, *Imagine*.

# Top Resolutions for 2026



Source: YouGov

# *NEW CREATION IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER*

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1 Corinthians 15:17 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **the new creation has come:** The old has gone, the new is here!

1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

➤ **Spiritual new birth/life for all who are in Christ (regeneration)**

<sup>4</sup> “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

<sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

<sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

John 3:4-7 | Jesus Teaches Nicodemus of the New Birth

<sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore **buried with him through baptism into death** in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life**.

Romans 6:3-7 | Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him **so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin**—<sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Romans 6:3-7 | Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

# *NEW CREATION IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER*

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1 Corinthians 15:17 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **the new creation has come:** The old has gone, the new is here!

➤ **Universal transformation that God is bringing to all Creation**

1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

➤ **Spiritual new birth/life for all who are in Christ (regeneration)**

# *NEW CREATION IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER*

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1 Corinthians 15:18-19

<sup>18</sup> All this is from **God**, who **reconciled us to himself through Christ** and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

- **Unlike Creation in the beginning (*from nothing*), New Creation at the end comes from God's reconciling work, through Christ; "i.e. the restoration of all things."**
- **Reconciliation:** Means by which we're born again;  
Ministry in which we participate with God;  
Message which we carry to the world.

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

5 Tho' an infant now we view Him,  
He will share His Father's throne;  
Gather all the nations to Him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:

While **creation** reveals **God's intent**,  
the **eschaton [end]** reveals **God's goal**.

- John Mark Hicks, *Enter the Water, Come to the Table*

# Where is God intending to bring forth New Creation in *your* life this year?

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- What brokenness is God desiring to mend?
- What dead relationship is God longing to revive?
- What are the areas of your heart, mind, and body over which God desires to be Sovereign and Lord?
- What are the battlegrounds of strife and discord on which God intends to establish His peace?

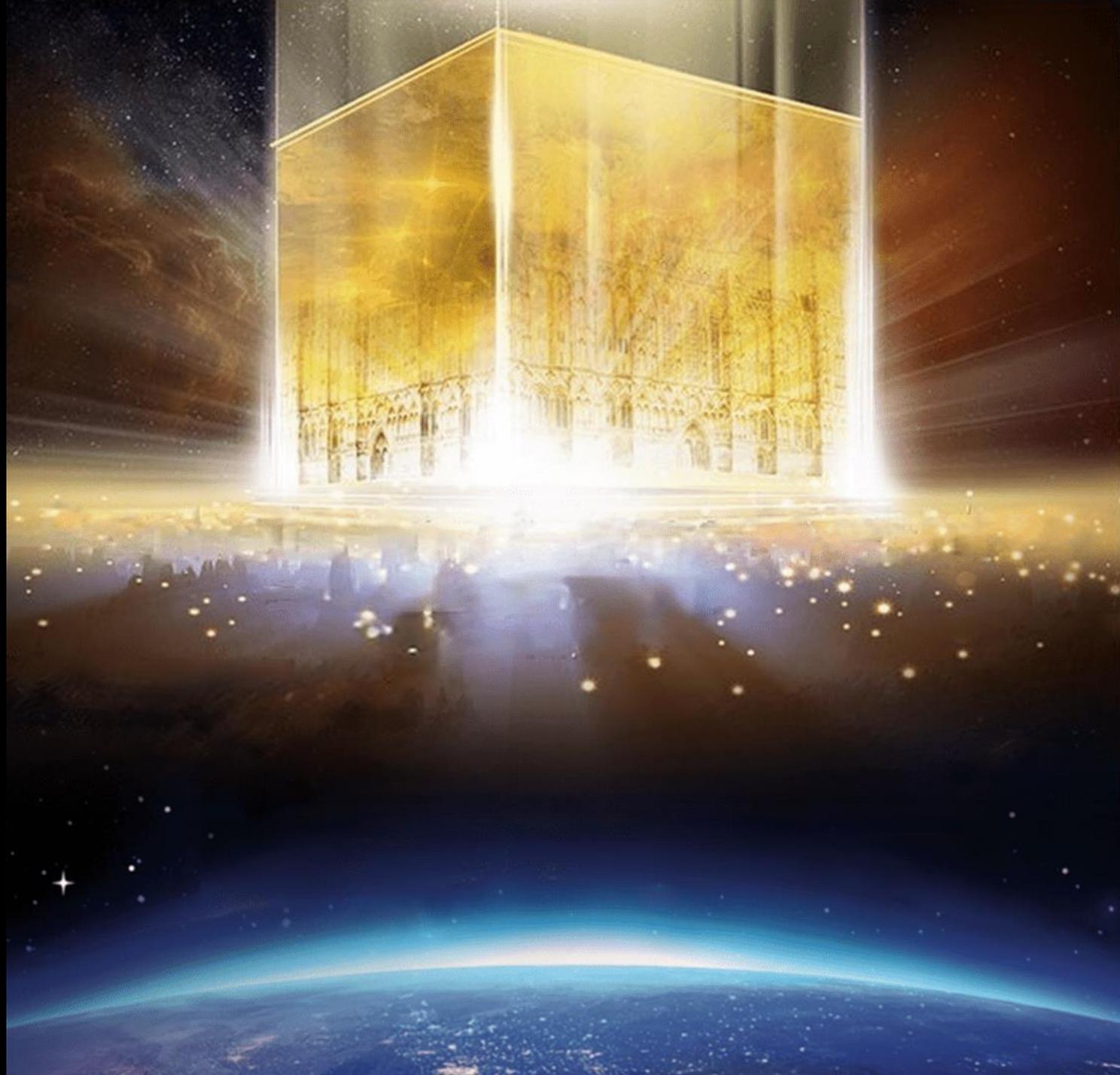
New Creation is a gift of renewal...

from **God**,

for **us**,

unto **His glory**.







**“If you are the city**, the new Jerusalem, where the inhabitants are of one mind, then you must be obedient unto the King of that great city, namely, Christ.

**If you are the branches**, then you must bear fruit like that of the vine. **If you are of the vineyard** of the Lord, then you must beware of the foxes.

**If you are the temple** of the lord, then you must be  
submissive unto your High Priest.

**If you are the ark of the covenant**, then the tables of the covenant written with the finger of God, that is, the commandments of God, must be engraved in your hearts, that all men may read that you are an epistle of Christ.”

- Menno Simons, *Letter to Christians in Amsterdam, c. 1545*

