

## New Wineskins for New Wine

**Welcome to 2025 CL – it is going to be a great year!**

**The Call to a Fast:** If you are new to CL, you need to know that we as a church body always devote ourselves at the beginning of the year to a time of prayer and fasting.

- In Matthew 6 in the **great sermon on the mount**, Jesus was teaching his followers not to worry about food, clothing, and necessities for life instead he said **(Mt 6:33) “seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.”**

### Something New In You

**Mark 2:18-22 ESV** Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” **19** And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. **20** The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. **21** No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. **22** And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But **new wine** is for **fresh wineskins.**”

Wine in the scripture has a strong prophetic application.

- It symbolizes the Joy of the Lord.
- Jesus and Paul both connected wine as a symbolic work of the Spirit. (*don’t be drunk with wine, be filled...*)
- But the most specific and clear connection has to do with Christ’ blood and the New Covenant.

In Luke 22 at the last supper Jesus took the cup of wine and passed it among them and said, *This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.* (Luke 22:20 NASV)

This is what Jesus is referring to in Mk. 2 – The New Wine of the New Covenant will not be contained in the old wineskins of their rigid religious systems.

The new wine of His New Grace will burst the old wineskins of their traditions.

**There is something better waiting for you. God wants to do something New In You. Will you seek Him for the New?!**

What did Jesus Mean when He said *As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.*

Jesus was referring to the Jewish customs of that day.

Jesus said after he departs there will be a new type of fasting and it will be filled with joy!

This is why Jesus told his followers *Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.* (Matt.6:16)

## **New Wineskins for New Wine**

The new life that Christ brings is ever/always expanding!

### **We need new Wineskins for New Wine.**

#### 3 Goals for a New Fast

##### 1) Make New Surrender.

- a) New Wineskins will require a new surrender.
- b) To embrace a 40 day fast, and pray and to devote yourself to discover a new word through John's gospel and his epistles... that in an of itself is a big surrender.
  - i) To pull away from social media and or the things that consume you and seek His face... that's a huge surrender.
  - ii) If you have already doubted your ability to fast with us for 40 days... reconsider.
- c) New Wine Demands New Fasting!

New Wine is for Fresh Wineskins!

##### 2) Take Inventory of Your Spiritual Condition.

###### a) Identify and Remove the brittle wineskins of your past.

###### i) Justified Resentment

###### (1) Stop Justified unforgiveness.

God cannot not do a new thing in you, if your old wineskin is filled with unforgiveness or resentment toward other or toward God.

###### (2) Stop justifying a bad attitude.

(a) Just because things have not gone your way does not mean you can't find your joy!

(b) Continued disappointment in life is a choice and not a cemented fixture!

###### (3) Stop justifying or tolerating sinful behavior.

*create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me (Ps 51:10)*

###### ii) An Unbelieving Heart

###### (1) What are you believing God for?

Is there something you have been praying for a long time?

Is there an unbeliever you would like God to awaken to spiritual things?

Is there a broken relationship you would like God to reconcile?

Is there a concern about the direction and the decisions about your future?

iii) Unholy Contentment

(1) We get perpetually stuck in the state of a lukewarm condition.

(2) That is the result of old wineskins.

(3) Have you become satisfied with a little, or do you desire something new?

3) Make Room for the New Wine of the Spirit.

a) The American lifestyle is a lifestyle of hustle.

For most of us schedules are ridiculous.

b) Dedicate some time to read, pray, and listen.

c) Make room for worship, make room for God!

d) If you make room for God by seeking Him, you will be filled!

God will not pour New Wine into Old Wineskins

**This is how you make for yourself New Wineskins!**

**New Wine is for New Wineskins**

**Isa. 43:18,19** “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. **19** Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.