

## Everything Is New

*If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away; see,  
everything has become new! —2 Corinthians 5:17*

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**READ:** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**REFLECT:** Most days I drive to work along county roads. The scenic route is much more soothing to my eyes than the busy stretches of commercial enterprises along the streets that go through town. Passing by the farms and woods helps me observe the cycles of the passing seasons: from barren winter to the greening of spring, from the ripening of crops and harvest to the earth going to sleep once again.

No matter how many times I observe it, however, I never get used to it. Spring never ceases to surprise me. And as much as I love spring flowers in all their showy gaudiness, it is the trees that really get me. Each morning I pass by several acres of apple orchards.

Last spring, I remember the branches being bare for what seemed to be much longer than usual. I was anxiously awaiting the moment the buds would appear, and every day I watched to see some small hint of life. Then one day, all of a sudden, there it was. Where the day before there had been only bare black sticks against the morning sky, now on every tree were hundreds, thousands, of tiny green buds of life. Like magic. As if some internal switch had been flipped, and all the trees sighed in unison and together said, “Ready.”

Such is the new creation in Christ—what has seemed to be dead and gone bursts forth with newness. In this born-again state, we are prepared to re-create the world with God.

—Regina Shands Stoltzfus

**RESPOND:** *Jesus, I long to burst forth into new life! Remove the dead, dry places in my spirit, and infuse me with your newness of life.*