

New Year's Resolution

Q1 – Should we make resolutions?

Although in one sense the first day of a new year is no more to God than any other day, yet he often puts into the heart of his children at that time a desire to begin the new year with good resolves,--perhaps with plans to carry out some worthy enterprise,--and with purposes to depart from the wrongs of the old year, and to live the new year with new determinations. {YI, February 11, 1908 par. 1}

In God's plan for his ancient people, he gave the command, "On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle." We have no tabernacle to set up as had the children of Israel, but we have a work of building to do, the importance of which all need to understand. "Ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building," said the apostle. If we will work with God in the building of this tabernacle, establishing it firmly on the broad principles of heaven, then it can truly be said of us, "We are laborers together with God." {YI, February 11, 1908 par. 2}

We are yet in the early part of the new year. Let this work of consecration and progression be begun without delay. Let this first part of the new year be given to the work of pruning away the branches of selfishness. Let the mind turn with clear discernment to the work of examining critically our individual course of action. It is not our privilege to measure the actions of others or criticize their failings. God has not made us the bearers of others' sins. It is with our own selves we have to do. The more thorough the work of repentance and reform in our own lives, the less we shall see to criticize in others. {YI, February 11, 1908 par. 3}

Q2 – What evidence do we have for the annual resolution being biblical? Leviticus 16:34

Q3 – What evidence do we have for a monthly practice? Psalms 81:3

Q4 – What evidence do we have for a weekly practice? Ezekiel 20:20, Genesis 2:3, Exodus 31:13

Q5 – What evidence do we have for a daily practice? 1 Corinthians 15:31, Matthew 6:34

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Q6 – What type of resolution should it be, like the world and pick on one thing to work on? 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ezekiel 18:31, Ezekiel 36:26-27

Q7 – How extensive is the transformation? 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Q8 – As the old year ends and the new begins, what shall we think of our old selves? Romans 6:6-7

Q9 – What if we fail, shall we do as the world does and wait for the next year? Proverbs 24:16

Q10 – When we fall, how does God treat us? 1 John 1:9

Q11 – What encouragement does Jesus give us? John 8:11, Romans 8:1