

## RESOLUTIONS?

I am so glad this is the only time of the year that we make “New Year Resolutions.” We seem to always make them in a manner that provides a way for the resolution to fail. So we make them hoping that if the stars and moon will all line up together, or some kind of nonsense like that.....”or whatever” then we might make it to the end of our resolution and it would be a success. What nonsense!!! Only 12 percent of the New Year Resolutions are kept in the same content of which it was made. I am thinking that most of this “New Year Resolution” stuff is just a waste of our time. Or is it?

What if I had some “New Year Resolutions” that would be counted in that 12 percent?

So how do I make resolutions that will be in the 12 percent? I start by making resolutions that with God’s leadership, it will fall in the 12 percent. The most important resolution for everyone should be to elevate our lives. When you elevate your life, not only will you see your life and charter move upward, you will find the church also moves upward. The problem is, Satan does not want you or the church to move up. His desire is for you to take a step backwards. But if you decide you will not take a step backward, then Satan is also satisfied with you staying right where you are now. At first we say, “NO” I am moving forward. However, you must understand that Satan will fight you when you start to elevate up. There will be problems in your life. He will try to affect your family. Satan knows if he can get to your family, then he can stop all progress and kill all resolutions. But God, the Hope of Glory, restores life and hope in our resolutions through some sources He has for us. God wants us to elevate our lives and by doing so He will keep Satan at a distance from us.

The first source we find is in Revelation 3:19 “I am the one who corrects and disciplines everyone I love. Be diligent and turn from you indifference.” The first source is” LOVE”. Love that tells us when we are wrong. Love that is what takes the correct action to discipline us. We are always looking for a God who will agree with us, and tell us just what we want to hear. Because God does love us, He corrects and disciplines us. To elevate our lives up we have to agree with God when He says we are wrong and accept the correction, then turn from our wrongs.

In Revelation 3:20 we see “Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come and we will share a meal as friends.” The next source God gives us to elevate our lives is “GRACE”. Grace is knocking at the door. Grace is God giving us things we do not deserve. We do not deserve salvation. We do not deserve a good family, good health, and all the good things God gives us. But God gives it to us through His Grace. God wants us to elevate our lives. In every way He wants to elevate our walk, our thinking, our understanding, our prayer life, our Bible Study, and our talking. God does not want us to talk down. When the children of Israel complained and talked down, they spent 40 years in the desert

You can spend 40 years in God’s goodness applying the sources He has given us with Love and Grace, or 40 years in the desert. You have to make the choice. You have three choices. You can take a step backwards, or you can just stay where you are as the New Year comes. You also have the choice to elevate yourself this coming New Year and God has given you LOVE and GRACE to see that you are successful.

As I look at how Ryanwood has elevated this past year, I know that I know that I know that the best is yet to come. I would like to extend to you an invitation to come and elevate your life with us here at Ryanwood. At Ryanwood we are always looking to the future. We cannot live in the past because the past has no future.

God Bless You,  
Brother Jimmy