

creator of all things, is our eternal Father, we need not fear what is ahead.

The Bible is the word of God and I believe it and will seek to obey it—put it into practice. If we love Him, God asks no less from me and you. Trust and obey Him every day!

4. Share God - with others

Evangelist Leighton Ford had a slogan that he often used. *“Don’t keep the faith—give it away.”* What he was emphasising is the fact that God loves the whole world and wants them to hear the gospel of salvation. It is our wonderful joy and responsibility to *‘give it away’ and find ways to ‘share the faith.’*

We who are richly blessed by our faith in Jesus Christ are asked to tell others about him. The Bible says, *“Jesus is the only One who can save people. His name is the only name in the world that has been given to save people. And we must call upon him to be saved!”* (Acts 4:12 - ICB).

Regardless of the questions about how God saves people all around the world, I must be willing to introduce others to Jesus. God has provided salvation through Jesus Christ and He wants the whole world to hear the ‘Good News’ before Jesus returns.

The Bible says, “The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent” (2 Peter 3:9 - NLT).

There’s a grand hymn written by Palmer Hartsough, which challenges us to make resolutions that will last.

I am resolved no longer to linger,
Charmed by the world’s delight,
Things that are higher, things that are nobler,
These have allured my sight.

*I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free;
Jesus, greatest, highest, I will come to Thee.*

I am resolved to go to the Savior,
Leaving my sin and strife;
He is the true One, He is the just One,
He has the words of life.

I am resolved to follow the Savior,
Faithful and true each day;
Heed what He says, and do what He wills,
For He is the living Way.

I am resolved to enter His kingdom
Leaving the paths of sin;
Friends may oppose me, foes may harass me,
Still will I enter in.

I am resolved, and who will go with me?
Come, friends, without delay,
Taught by the Bible, led by the Spirit,
We’ll walk the heavenly way.

Will you resolve to put Jesus first in your
life and live for him this year?
(cp. Romans 12:1-2)

Some Good New Year Resolutions



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New Year Resolutions

1 Corinthians 2:1-10

This year I promise to ... I really want to ... I'm not sure though.... Oh my, maybe I won't make any resolutions this year after all — I never keep them anyway. It's just too hard! Have you ever felt like this?

I have — many times. Yet I've also learned New Year's is a great time to reassess the influence of my attitudes and actions. It is a time to re-think priorities and decide to make some changes.

Here are four resolutions I know I need to keep this year:

1. Think God - before all else

There was a movie a few years ago starring George Burns as God in the "Oh God" series. A young girl received the challenge to make people aware of God. She came up with a slogan titled '**Think God.**' It became a popular icon that caused people to take God into account in their lives.

A resolution that I believe we should make is stated in James 4:13 - 15. "Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "**If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.**"

We are to say, "**If it is the Lord's will.**" These words ring in my ears. We will be greatly blessed if we come before the Lord in prayer and submit our wills to His will.

As we think of plans and activities for this year, we must '**Think God**' first. What would please Him? What would he have us do? What are His plans and purposes for our lives? If we enter a new year with our own aspirations, we may be sorely disappointed. I will ask God to guide me to do His will.

2. Love God - with all my heart

When Jesus was here many people argued with him and tried to trap him with their intellectually smart questions. The religious people wanted to prove him wrong. Instead of debating silly issues, Jesus went right to the heart of the matter. He challenged people as to their personal commitment to God— the one and only true God.

Mark in his Gospel account tells this story. "*One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?' 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* There is no commandment greater than these" (Mark 12: 28-31).

The greatest thing in life is to know the Lord Jesus and God the Father. It is a matter of the heart. We are to 'love' him with our whole being—heart, mind, and strength. When we do this all other issues, questions and doubts are handed over to God. He has the answers.

At the beginning of a new year, it is imperative that we search our heart and desire to respond positively to God. He has given us all things richly to enjoy. He has also provided eternal redemption, salvation from sin and an eternal home with Him in heaven. How much do we appreciate this? Can we not trust Him to take care of us this year if He has promised to care for us forever?

I am so thankful to God and Jesus Christ that I want to love them with my whole heart. How about you?

3. Obey God - in my daily life

The willingness to 'DO' what God says, is based on our loving response to who He is, what he provides and what He promises. Jesus said, "*If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.* He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. *These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me*" (John 14:23-24).

When we trust His Word - all matters are settled. If the God of the universe, the