

Sermon: RESOLUTE

Preached by Ps Gina Sunderland at Risk Church 20th January 2019

As we sit here this morning....having entered a new year.....I am certain that many of you would have declared various new year's resolutions.

In our western culture, a 'new year's resolution' is something which is common and often involves things like....

- this year I will spend less, and save money for a holiday...or a car...a trip overseas
- exercise more and lose weight
- spend more quality time with my family
- read my Bible more regularly
- pray more
- be more organised
- cut back on my use of FB or social media
- this year I will...I will...I will...

So as we consider our new year's resolutionslet us focus on the meaning of this word....**resolution**.

resolution

noun: **resolution**; plural noun: **resolutions**

Meaning = a firm decision to do or not to do something.

However...to see the resolution come to pass...one must be resolute.

Resolute means to be PURPOSEFUL, DETERMINED, UNWAVERING

The Wise Men or Magi proved to be resolute...they were purposeful, determined and unwavering in their pursuit to find the one who had been born King of the Jews. They did find Him and when they did... they bowed down and worshipped Him.

The Shepherds on the night Christ was born proved to be resolute...they were purposeful, determined and unwavering in their quest to find the newly born Saviour...Christ the Lord... who was wrapped in swaddling cloth in a manger... somewhere in Bethlehem.... as told to them by the Angel who appeared to them in the fields as they guarded their flocks. That night they decided to leave their fields to find the baby in the manger....and being resolute...they did find Him and their hearts were filled with joy and they returned to their fields glorifying and praising God.

Disciples of Jesus Christ must also be resolute...it is with this attribute that a person is able to follow Him on a daily basis.

So...I ask you a question... what is it that you must leave, lay down or give up, in your quest to follow the Saviour?

No-where in the Bible do we read about Jesus Christ saying...go into all the nations and make Christians. What we do read is...go into all the nations and make Disciples (*Matthew 28:19*). A person can call themselves a Christian...but if that person is not following Jesus Christ and denying himself, that person is not a true Disciple.

Matthew 16:24 NIV

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

So with every NEW YEAR...every new day will bring with it the expected and the unexpected.

To follow Christ as his disciple, you and I will need to be resolute on a daily basis with both the expected and unexpected circumstances which will come our way.

When a person truly understands why they were born, being resolute in following Christ Jesus will be a defining characteristic in that person's life.

There is a difference about how you were raised and why you were born. David was raised a shepherd but was born to be a King. Joseph was raised to be a carpenter but was born to help raise God's son.

God's purpose for your life, was, is and will always be a good one. God wants you to know that no matter how you were raised, or what was done to you or what happened to you...you were born for a purpose and that purpose is to be inside His will so His plans for your life can become a reality.

The dangerous thing about going outside of God's will to get what you want is that you have to stay outside of His will to keep it.

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. (NASB)

The will of God the Father includes the righteous standards that we are to obey and live by. The will of God the Father is found in all sixty-six books of the Bible from Genesis to the Book of Revelation.

So... how do we do 'resolute'

What must we do and what is needed for you and me to be a true disciple of Christ Jesus?

The answer is in learning and understanding the difference between being a Carnal Christian and being a Spiritually minded Christian...and acknowledging which kind of Christian we really are...and to be sure we are allowing the transforming power of God's Word grow us and change us into the image of His Son.

CARNAL MINDSET

The word "carnal" is translated from the Greek word sarkikos, which literally means "fleshly."

To live carnally satisfies the flesh rather than pleasing and honouring God. A carnal Christian may have acknowledged Christ as Saviour, but not the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and transformation of their soul (ie: a person's mind, will and emotions).

Psalm 23: 3 = He restores my soul....

Romans 8:6-8 (NKJV)

⁶For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

To be carnally minded means to cater to the appetites and impulses of one's human nature which is displeasing to God. Carnally minded is thinking and doing what is right in one's own eyes which is humanism.

A carnally minded Christian is ruled by their senses...they are facts minded...they are emotionally driven, led by their feelings and controlled by natural circumstances and natural desires.

To be carnally minded means you have a 'mindset' that is contrary to God and His Word... and His will for your life; and His planned outcome for you in any situation. With the carnal mindset the Word of God is not reasonable. **Carnally minded thinkers are always victims and never victors.**

SPIRITUAL MINDSET

Spiritually minded is being led by the Holy Spirit...it is being 'Word of God' minded...there is a craving for God and God's purposes...it is being satisfied with nothing less than God's perfect will for your life. **A spiritual mindset is nourished by intimate times with God and the knowledge and meditation upon the Word of God which transforms us by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2).**

Jeremiah 15:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
 And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;
 For I am called by Your name,
 O LORD God of hosts.

Spiritually minded means you have given the Holy Spirit control of your thinking. You keep yourself focused on the Word of God as the answer... resulting in real lasting peace with clear answers and right direction.

Colossians 3:15 (AMP)

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] be the controlling factor in your hearts [deciding and settling questions that arise]. To this *peace* indeed you were called as members in one body [of believers]. And be thankful [to God always].

Spiritually minded means to live by faith and not by sight...and with the Word of God you have developed an image of victory, that every problem, every frightening detail and every fact and circumstance stacked against you cannot take hold of your thinking or exalt themselves above the knowledge that you have of Almighty God.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV)

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Spiritually minded Christians have allowed the 'fruit of the Spirit' to be cultivated in their lives and from their lives flows love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. The 'fruit of the Spirit' are not given...only the Gifts of the Spirit are given by God (**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**). The fruit of Spirit are cultivated...we have to grow these fruit in our lives.

A spiritually minded person desires to grow in holiness and because of their obedience to the Word of God, allows Christ to conquer every temptation, test or trial.

A spiritual mindset is the mind of Christ in operation, no longer dependent on mere human wisdom, insights and reasoning, which have all kinds of limits and no real answers.

Quote: Billy Graham

If you as a Christian are overcome by the enemy, the simple explanation is that Christ has been denied His rightful position of supremacy in your heart. The dethronement of Christ will always lead to failure in spiritual warfare. It is Christ, and Christ alone, who can give you

a constant, daily, victorious life. These, then, are our three foes: the world, the flesh and the devil. The attitude of the Christian to all three of them is summed up in one word: **renounce**. There must be no bargaining, no compromise, no hesitation. **Absolute renunciation is the only possible way for the Christian to have victory in life**. If you are a Christian, there is no excuse for not having daily victory in your life by renouncing sin and, by faith, letting the Spirit of God have control of your life. END OF QUOTE

Quote:

You cannot sing a song of victory when you are in the middle of defeat.



This statement can only be validated when SELF has not been dethroned.

QUOTE from a well known Christian speaker: *You cannot sing a song of victory when you are in the middle of defeat.*

This statement is not truth and can only be validated when SELF has not been dethroned!!!

Dethronement of Christ PREVENTS a Christian singing a song of victory during challenging times. Dethronement of SELF is necessary BEFORE a Christian can sing a song of victory during challenging times.

Christian spirituality involves a choice we make to 'know and grow' in our daily relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ by submitting to His Word and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This means that, as believers, we make a choice to keep our relationship and closeness with the Holy Spirit clear through confession ([1 John 1:9](#)). When we grieve the Holy Spirit by sin we erect a barrier between ourselves and God. ([Ephesians 4:30](#); [1 John 1:5-8](#)),

Being resolute includes NOT GIVING UP!

Quote: Christine Caine

Let's face the truth, we will falter, fumble and fail. But failing at something does not make you a failure, nor is it final. The race does not end when you fail at something; the race ends for you when you stop getting back up and continue to run.

Proverbs 24:16...For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again.

The key is refusing to quit. Do not stop. Never. Ever.