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January 2018 "RESOLVE TO TRUST GOD"

Dear Friends,

Every January it seems that people talk about making New Year's resolutions. They examine their lives, identify areas that need change, then resolve to make the changes. In other words, they intend to establish order where there is disorder. These resolutions can involve many different areas of a person's life, a few of which may be:

- lose weight
- take classes at college
- clean out the garage
- search for a better job
- reduce the amount of junk food eaten
- better money management
- stop smoking

For Christians, New Year's Resolutions can include such things as:

- pray more
- fast more
- meditate scripture more
- be more faithful in church attendance
- witness to more people

Personally, I do not know of anyone who has kept all their resolutions. It isn't because they didn't want to, but because they come face-to-face with the reality that old habits truly are hard to break. The reason is because old habits have very deep roots in a person's soul. It's one thing to decide to change, but quite another to actually change. Think about it: to successfully implement a New Year's Resolution, a person is essentially saying, "I have lived in such a way for (however many years), but starting January first, that's going to change." Such individuals are pretty much setting themselves up for failure and all its accompanying emotional distress.

For example, a Christian who has rarely ever prayed and decides that as of January first he is going to pray four hours each day will most likely not be able to keep that resolution through the first week. It isn't that he doesn't from his heart want to spend that quality time in prayer, but he has trained himself for years not to pray that much. A better resolution might have been to start praying for 15 minutes each day until he has trained himself for that amount of prayer, then

increase the time by 15 minute intervals until reaching that four-hour goal. It might take longer than one year to reach four hours of daily prayer, but the odds of success are far greater.

What might surprise some people is that God has made some resolutions. Consider what He has resolved to do:

- “I promise to hear you when you pray” (Psalm 34:15)
- “I will fill your heart with peace.” (John 14:27)
- “I will give you mental stability.” (2 Timothy 1:7)
- “I promise to comfort you in every one of life’s trials.” (Psalm 23:4)
- “I will give you all you need to defeat every demonic attack.” (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- “I will never hold you accountable for what I have forgiven.” (Hebrews 8:12)
- “I will heal you.” (1 Peter 2:24)
- “I will always help you know what decisions to make.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- “I will never be unreliable or undependable.” (Hebrews 13:8)
- “I will help you pray the perfect prayer for the fulfillment of My will.” (Romans 8:26-27)
- “I promise to never stop loving you.” (Jeremiah 31:3)
- “I promise to provide for you.” (Philippians 4:19)
- “I promise to be the perfect Father to you.” (Galatians 3:26)

The above list is but a small sampling of God’s resolutions. Though they are thousands of years old, they are as fresh and alive as the day He first spoke them.

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)

God cannot lie (Titus 1:2) so it is impossible for His resolutions to fail. But it seems as though many Christians really don’t take Him seriously. It’s almost as though they equate His ability to keep resolutions to what they’ve seen in others and their own lives. However, God is not like us: He never gets distracted, never gets tired, never uses emotional manipulation *and never makes a promise He cannot keep!*

This is not so much a matter of God not being able to do what He has said, it’s a matter of us trusting Him. People do not inherently trust God or what He has said in His Word. If they did, we wouldn’t have so many different denominations and doctrines within the Body of Christ. In fact, many churches don’t disciple members to fully trust God. The proof of that is when a church says, “You need to trust God,” then in the next breath teaches something like, “healing is not for today.” In such an environment, the roots of distrust can sink very deeply into a person’s life.

Another way Christians are trained not to fully trust God is through observation. When a pastor preaches faith, the unfailing power of God’s Word and the need to trust the Lord in every

situation, but then prays as though he doesn't believe what he just preached, it sows distrust. To illustrate, if a pastor preaches that by Jesus' stripes we were healed, but then prays for someone's healing by saying something like, "Oh, God, we beseech thee, please stretch forth your hand and heal so-and-so!" That may sound good, but didn't Jesus say in Mark 16:18 that we are to lay hands on the sick and see them recover? Also, it's one thing to teach people that God will supply all their need, but then negate that teaching by begging and pleading for money and taking multiple offerings in services.

Someone might ask, "Brother Martin, what does it take to trust God?" Simply put: fellowship with Him. When I first met my wife, Kathy, I was highly attracted to her. But it wasn't until I had spent lots of time with her that I learned I could fully trust her; our phone calls, our dates and our times of just being together strengthened my trust in her. Eventually, I not only loved her, but I also trusted her. It was then that I felt comfortable marrying her (next month I will celebrate 36 years of being married to my best friend).

I have no doubt that all Christians love the Lord. But loving Him is only the beginning. We must also come to the place of trusting Him and every Word He has spoken, and this requires fellowship with Him.

This kind of fellowship is not simply a matter of spending hours praying, worshiping and meditating in scripture; it includes fellowshiping with Him throughout each day. It encompasses talking to Him, worshiping Him and even confessing scripture while doing housework, on the job, driving, etc. It doesn't even have to be verbal, for not all circumstances are convenient to verbally fellowshiping with Him. God knows your heart and thoughts; mentally fellowshiping with Him while grocery shopping most definitely helps develop your trust in Him:

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee (Isaiah 26:3).

Interestingly enough, the more Christians learn to trust God, the more they will understand who they've become in Christ. As that happens, they may notice that many of those New Year's resolutions they have failed to keep in the past are now being accomplished with far less effort than they had thought was necessary.

The moment we were born again, we came alive with victory residing in our heart. This is why God said we've been made more than conquerors (Romans 8:37). Every resolution of God is a revelation of what we have in Christ. The more we trust Him, the more we see His promises manifest. If God be with us, who can be against us...hallelujah!

In His Grace,

Jim

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Jim martin ministries Dayton oh

You can also access the channel via this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvKWN9530I-I9u0ZsO78pA>

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- All of my non-series sermons from 1999 through 2017
- All of my teaching series from that same time period.
- All of the Prayer and Power Conferences held at our church (this includes not just my sermons, but all the sermons from every speaker at those conferences, as well as prophecies and offering exhortations).
- All of the conferences in other nations where I have ministered
- Over ten years of my monthly teaching letters.
- A printable catalogue listing all of my non-series sermons by date.

These are MP3 audio files only and **do not** include any video files. The files are categorized in separate folders for easy access. Here's how to receive this sermon collection:

- We do not have a stock of new thumb drives. You must send us a **brand new, never opened** thumb drive (also called a flash drive) having a minimum capacity of at least **64GB** (less than 64GB will not hold all the sermons). Again, what you send us **must be new and unopened**; do not send a previously used drive. Be very cautious about buying a new drive from eBay or other such websites; some of the drives sold this way may be knockoffs and corrupted with faulty software or viruses. Purchase new drives from reputable stores; it is very easy to find special deals at stores like Office Depot, Best Buy, Staples, etc. Please keep in mind that even brand name drives can be faulty, though this is quite rare.
- Once we receive your drive, we will load it with all the sermons and return it to you.

If you have any questions about this, contact me at PastorJimGCC@gmail.com.

2018 PRAYER AND POWER CONFERENCE DATES ARE SET!

Our 2018 Prayer and Power Conference will be Sunday, April 22 - Friday, April 27. Our host hotel is the Country Inn and Suites on Colonel Glenn Highway. The hotel website is <https://www.countryinns.com/beavercreek-hotel-oh-45324/ohfairbo>. The phone number is 1-937-429-2222. To receive our conference discount, you must contact the hotel directly and ask for the Grace Christian Center conference rate. If you want to consider other hotels in the same vicinity, Google "hotels near Wright State University" and you will have many options.

We apologize, but we will not be issuing letters of invitation to those of you coming from other nations who need a visa to enter the United States. You will need to obtain an invitation letter from another source. Also, we will not be providing financial support to cover expenses such as airplane tickets, hotel rooms or meals. If you have any questions, please send an email to PastorJimGCC@gmail.com.

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