

Spiritual Resolutions

(By Bob Jones, Paul Keith and Wanda Davis)

It is a common tradition in our society to begin the new year with various "resolutions" that we hope to follow in an effort to improve our health, finances or lifestyle. The term "resolution" is defined as a state of mental firmness, determination or resolve. With our determination we set ourselves on the course of meeting our objectives with varying degrees of success.

How much more fruitful would it be to make spiritual "determinations" and objectives that improve our ability to become trustworthy stewards of Heavenly power and authority. The prophet/king David understood this principle of making commitments or vows before God as did Job and others.

Of course, there are Nazarite vows or covenants that must adamantly be followed when executed.

However, the area that we are addressing is one in which we purpose in our hearts, with the Lord's help, to make spiritual commitments that pave the way for fresh expressions of power, authority and fruitfulness.

One of the ways the Holy Spirit has taught us about Kingdom life is by studying the lives of other Christians now in heaven, who walked in that dimension of Heavenly reality. They provide a witness or testimony of God's faithfulness to His people and His covenant. Some of these were widely known in public ministry and many others were never released into a broad public forum.

In the process of this study, I discovered one particular man of extraordinary spiritual understanding who made commitments and determined resolutions in his life. Through them, he was launched into a far deeper intimacy with the Lord and trusted with greater expressions of the Lord's virtue.

I felt compelled to release these five personal commitments, both for us as a ministry and hopefully others who are desperate to know God in a deeper way. These determinations served A. W. Tozer very well in his pursuit of God. I trust they will be helpful as we launch into this fresh dimension of church history and Kingdom reality.

Five Spiritual Determinations

1. Deal Thoroughly With Sin.

That may sound like a simple truth, yet our society has incredibly "watered-down" the issue of our personal transgressions with various buzzwords and psychological theories and blame shifting. As a result, many are not appropriately taking their

failures and sin to the cross for their remission. The simple truth is, we continue to deal with carnal issues that afflict us and we must openly and candidly acknowledge them before the Lord through repentance for their cleansing.

Brutal honesty before the Lord is the best course. After all, there is nothing hidden from His sight and all things are open and laid bare before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. (Hebrews 4:13) Open acknowledgment of our weaknesses paves the way for grace and the extraction of spiritual strongholds and dominions.

2. Never Own Anything.

Naturally, this commitment is one dealing with mind-sets and the motivating spirit behind our stewardship of the things entrusted to us. Clearly, there are things that we have ownership of in our lives including our home, cars etc.. However, the spiritual concept in this commitment deals with not allowing anything we possess to possess us. It is in the full relinquishing of covetousness and a spiritual comprehension that all we have in our possession actually belongs to the Lord for his usefulness in the Kingdom.

This is particularly true at this time because of the imminent release of the "Josephs" who will be entrusted with significant natural and spiritual provision to facilitate the notable events about to unfold. This unselfish trait will mark the ones distinguished with the privilege of serving the Kingdom in this way.

3. Never Defend Yourself.

This one is sometimes more difficult. We are inherently endowed with instincts of self-preservation and survival. However, part of our redemptive process is the full yielding of our life and reputation to the One who is our ultimate Advocate. As our friend Bob Jones likes to say... we have the best Jewish lawyer who has ever lived.

It seems to be a spiritual principle that we can usurp the Lord's defense of us by insisting upon exonerating ourselves. Part of the covenant blessing portrayed in Exodus 23:22 is the Lord's promise that he **"will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries."** Our part is to faithfully meet His conditions. Likewise, the Lord promises that no weapon formed against us will prosper and the tongues which speak against us will be dealt with in one form or another.

4. Never Pass Anything On About Another That Will Hurt Them

In the coming days there will be great emphasis on the commandment to love the Lord with all of our hearts and the adjoining commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. The emphasis will be placed on the appropriate order and fulfillment of this admonition which apprehends the essence of Kingdom life.

We cannot allow ourselves to become so captured with the heart of ministry that we fail to love the Lord and fulfill His need for fellowship and union. Likewise, we cannot truly fulfill the second commandment to love others unless we experientially comprehend friendship and intimate relationship with the Lord. When this balance is achieved, the Lord's heart of charity in us will convey that we should not pass anything along that would adversely affect another person. As the Scriptures point out, love covers a multitude of sins and transgressions. (1 Peter 4:8)

5. Never Accept Any Glory

In 1991, while in prayer late one evening, I became intently aware that a divine presence had entered the room. Though I could not see with my natural eyes the presence, I knew something had transpired. With that realization, a flood of revelation was imparted concerning the ministry that will characterize the last days and personal qualities essential to carry this important endowment of Kingdom power and authority.

One of those qualifications came from Isaiah 42:6-9--- **"I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you."**

The Lord has emphatically declared that He will not give His glory to another nor will He continue to allow His praise to be imparted to false images. It all belongs to Him. That reality will form the foundation of those who will be allowed the privilege of participating with the Holy Spirit in the unfolding of God's great end-time plan. He is building a spiritual house and He will use those who are humble and contrite of spirit and who tremble at His word.

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