

RESOLVE

Have you ever made a New Year's Resolution? I have. Tis' the season for resolutions! Resolve (a firm determination to do something) is a fascinating thing. Yet, somewhere, I read, "Researchers suggest that only 9% of Americans that make resolutions complete them. In fact, research goes on to show that 23% of people quit their resolution by the end of the first week, and 43% quit by the end of January." There are many suggested reasons why people aren't truly resolved to fulfill their resolutions. However, most (if not all) of us know that resolutions are something humanity struggles with.

In my observation and reflections on my failed experiences, I realize that most resolutions are very "me" focused. Most resolutions in the modern age follow a similar construction: "I am going to _____ because of what it is going to _____ for me." Simply put, the action and outcome are self-reliant and selfishly focused.

However, we see some biblical resolutions that give us a different perspective.

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

Daniel is a prime example. He wasn't trying to drop a few pounds or trying to make sure he was ready for swimsuit season. Daniel was an exile in captivity. Yet his resolution wasn't centered around improving his situation. Daniel was concerned with his faithfulness and relationship with God.

Luke 9:51

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

Of course, Jesus is the highest example. Some translations say that Jesus set out "resolutely" for Jerusalem. We know he fulfilled that resolve when he was nailed to the cross and gave his life for us (Galatians 1:3-5).

What is the key in both circumstances? When we drill down to the motivation and desired outcomes, the I/Me is entirely nonexistent. Paul gives us some clues to this type of successful resolve.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Our calling and faith should direct our resolve for good and action.
2. God's power is the only power that can fulfill our resolve.
3. The primary focus of our desire should be that Jesus is glorified.

I do not advocate making resolutions that will be obsolete in a few days, weeks, or months. However, like you, I am about bringing glory to our King. May we all resolve to do that more this year, and may our desire be fulfilled by his power!

Shalom,
Ryan