

SPRING HILL CHURCH

JANUARY 2020

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS DON'T CUT IT

Charles E Moore

I'm skeptical of New Year's resolutions. They are too easy to make, rarely carried out, and often cover up what really needs to change. It's not that we set our sights too low; resolutions invariably sidestep root causes.

Too often we mistake the symptom for the cause. Doctors now report that an extract from the fruit of the prickly pear cactus could stave off hangover symptoms. Companies now market hangover pills that we can pop before work the next day. Things are looking up, aren't they? So much for sobriety and self-control!

If we're honest, few of us really want things to be completely different. We just want life to get better, or easier. We can handle a tune-up or face-lift, but drastic change? Medication, yes; surgery, no. Reform, maybe; revolution, never.

"All true Christian life," writes Dietrich von Hildebrand, "involves the deep yearning to become a 'new person,' and an inner readiness for something fundamentally different." The Apostle Paul stated something similar: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" The question is:

Do we want the new or not?

New Year's resolutions obscure the profound transformation Jesus brings: "Behold I make all things new." They do so in several ways. Resolutions are generally self-referential, hence the obsession with diet and exercise. Also, most resolutions stem from a sense of guilt, thus our incessant preoccupation with staying in better touch with each other and spending more quality time with loved ones we otherwise neglect. Moreover, resolutions assume continuity with the present: improvement, but not transformation. Finally, most resolutions rest on sheer will-power, not on God's power.

The good news of God's kingdom, however, eclipses such good intentions. When God acts a radical reversal begins, a decisive break happens: "Drop your nets, and follow me." Our lives get turned inside out and spun around. "Valleys are made high, hills made low." But we can bring about none of these changes ourselves. God alone redeems.

So is it just a matter of "letting go and letting God"? Not at all! We are called, in the words of John the Baptist, to "prepare the way" for God's future. God ex-

pects obedience, and if we heed his commands, we can take part in the revolution he intends.

Unlike resolutions, revolutions are never started by the complacent. Unless we are dissatisfied with the way things are—not just with our personality or image—nothing will change. Only the brokenhearted, the desperate, and the oppressed crave for revolution, for freedom, and for new life. It is the captives who demand liberty. Thus, only when we recognize the chains that bind us can a change begin.

When our prayers for God's kingdom become desperate, there is hope. What keeps a recovering alcoholic off the bottle? Certainly not will-power. Inner resolve alone doesn't hack it. Any addict knows that promises are the fool's ploy for the next fall. The sooner he runs for help, the better. Similarly, God's victory comes in response to hearts that beg for change, admit their need, and go for help.

Prayer, then, is a necessity. Yet it is just the beginning. God waits for us to do what we pray for. This is the crux of the matter: simple obedience, nothing more, nothing less.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ◆ MAXINE
- ◆ SHARON
- ◆ JUNIOR
- ◆ RICKY & RENEE
- ◆ PASTOR & FAMILY
- ◆ THE CHURCH
- ◆ ASIAN MINISTRY
- ◆ JAIL MINISTRY
- ◆ NURSING HOME MINISTRY
- ◆ NEW MEMBERS
- ◆ CHOIR DIRECTOR
- ◆ ALL ON PRAYER BOARD
- ◆ THE LOST
- ◆ THE ADDICTS
- ◆ APRIL P
- ◆ CALEB
- ◆ THE DEPRESSED
- ◆ DONNA
- ◆ THE SICK
- ◆ THE HOMELESS
- ◆ KENNY'S SISTER

DO YOU PRAY?

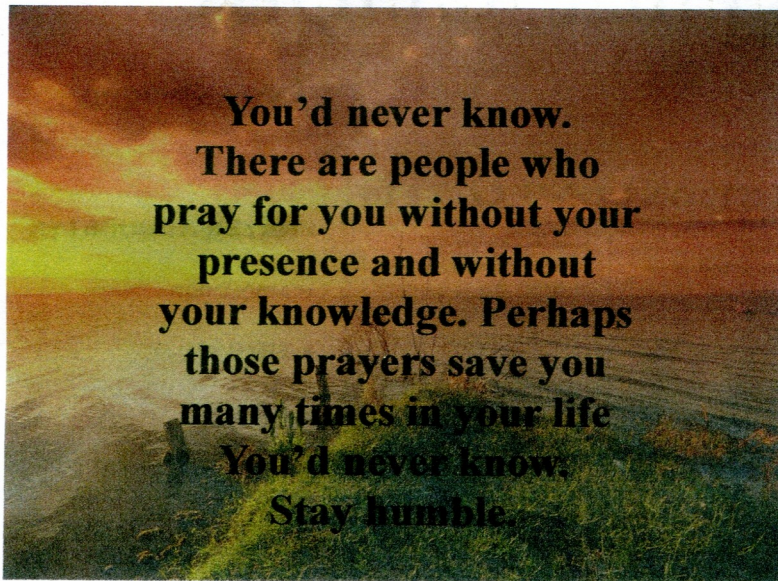
I love this interpretation of a prayer. What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't only happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend. That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends. That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, 'drive safely' or 'be safe.' that's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy. You are praying. When you forgive someone, that is prayer. Prayer is a vibration. A feeling. A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being. Keeping praying always. . .

**No one has
been hurt
more by the
church than
Jesus but he
still shows up.**

A snake penetrated into a carpentry workshop. As it slipped, it passed over a saw and got slightly wounded. Suddenly, it turned and bit the saw, and biting the saw, the snake seriously got wounded in its mouth! Then not understanding what was happening and thinking that the saw was attacking "him," it decided to roll around the saw to suffocate it with all its body by squeezing it with all its strength, but it ended up being killed by the saw!!! Sometimes we react in anger to hurt those who have harmed us, but we realize after all that we are hurting ourselves. In life it is better sometimes to ignore situations, ignore people, ignore their behaviors, their words. Sometimes it is better not to react so as not to suffer consequences that can sometimes be deadly or harmful. Do not let hate take over your life because love is stronger than anything. Be wise and live healthy. Let God fight for you. God bless you.

Always **PRAY** to have
the **eyes** that see the
best in people.
A **heart** that
forgives the worst,
a **mind** that
forgets the bad, and
a **soul** that never loses
faith in God.





*Therefore shall ye lay
up these my Words in
your heart and in your
soul, and bind them for
a sign upon your hand,
that they may be as
frontlets between your
eyes.*

Deut. 11:18 KJV

The Holy Scriptures
were not given to us
that we should
ONLY Enclose them
in Books **BUT** that
we should *Engrave*
them upon our
hearts...

Every minute someone leaves this world behind.
We are all in "the line" without knowing it.
We never know how many people are before us.
We can not move to the back of the line.
We can not step out of the line.
We can not avoid the line.

So while we wait in line. . .

Make moments count.
Make priorities.
Make time.
Make your gifts known.
Make a nobody feel like somebody.
Make your voice heard.
Make the small things big.
Make someone smile.
Make the change.
Make love.
Make up.
Make peace.
Make sure to tell your people they are loved.
Make sure to have no regrets.
Make sure you are ready.

SPRING HILL CHURCH
3038 E WALNUT AVE
DALTON, GA 30721

SUNDAY SCHOOL.....10:00AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP..... 11:00AM
SUNDAY NIGHT..... 6:00PM
WEDNESDAY NIGHT.... 7:30PM

WE ARE ON THE WEB

WWW.SPRINGHILLCHURCHDALTON.ORG

What would you do if you woke up tomorrow morning and all you had is what you thanked

God for yesterday!!!

6 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD TRUST GOD:

- HE KNOWS YOU BY NAME. ISALAH 43:1
- HE WILL FIGHT FOR YOU. EXODUS 14:14
- HE THINKS ABOUT YOU. PSALMS 139:17
- HE HAS PLANS FOR YOU. JEREMIAH 29:11
- HE IS YOUR REFUGE. PSALMS 62:6-8
- HE IS ALWAYS WITH YOU. MATTHEW 28:20

Always pray for others who can't pray for themselves, because others prayed for you when you couldn't pray for yourself.

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque.

It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The six year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up; stood beside the little boy; and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?"

The pastor replied, "Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "which service, the 8:00 or the 10:30?"

