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HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

A Fresh Start



RESOLVES FOR THE NEW YEAR

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New year: 12 mos., 365 days, 8760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds should the Lord tarry and give you life on this earth to the end of it. That is a lot of time and a lot of responsibility. How will you use it?

Resolution Definition: decide firmly on a course of action.

CHALLENGE: Resolve



A. To trust the Lord absolutely like Abraham.

This is a great aspiration, but beware: it can be a process.

Gen. 12:2, And I will make of thee a great nation . . .

Gen. 15:3-6 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the LORD [came] unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir . . . 6 And he believed in the LORD;

Gen. 16:2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

That worked and Ishmael was born when Abraham was 86 but that was Abraham and Sarah helping God. That was not trust. Ishmael was not the child of Promise and trust.

Gen. 17:18-19 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! 19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

FINALLY, At age 100, Sara 90, Isaac was born.

Abraham's faith was growing, and being rewarded. Remember it was a PROCESS.

Gen. 22:9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

Heb. 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

B. Resolve like Enoch to please God in your daily living, Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5

Gen. 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Heb. 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

C. Resolve like Daniel to commune with God habitually, Dan. 6:10

Dan. 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

D. Resolve like Moses to choose to suffer affliction rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin, Hebrews 11:24

Heb. 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

E. Resolve like Paul exhorted Timothy to diligently study the Word of God, 2 Tim. 2:15

II Tim. 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

F. Resolve like Caleb and Joshua to trust God's promises when circumstances seem impossible, Num. 14:6-10

Num. 14:6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: 7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. 8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. 9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. 10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones.

And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

G. Resolve like Joseph to turn your back on all temptations to immorality, Gen. 39:6-9

Gen. 39:6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured. 7 And it came to pass after these things,

that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; 9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?