

FIVE RESOLVES FOR PERSONAL REVIVAL

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear. Isaiah 59:1-2 (NAS)

Do you wish to be an instrument in the hands of God? Do you want to see God's power at work through you? Do you long for your prayers to be answered? If you do, then the barrier of sin between you and God must be demolished and a lifestyle of holiness and love for God renewed. Though every true Christian is pardoned and placed eternally in Christ, God chooses to bring discipline and to allow ineffectiveness in the lives of his erring children. To be restored, spiritual surgery must take place.

Personal revival begins when the believer faces his sin honestly. Though painful, only honesty with God and others will enable the Christian to walk in purity and power. The following resolves are not a formula but are required of every believer. Humbly pray and search your own heart. Begin this moment to repent and return to Him. Place your full confidence in God, who alone can make you holy. Pay any price to be right with God and a means of spiritual renewal to others.

1. REPENT OF EVERY KNOWN SIN

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Revelation 3:19

Resolved: I will not go to bed this evening nor live this day without fully repenting of all known sin against God. (James 4:4-10; 2 Corinthians 7:10)

2. FORSAKE ALL QUESTIONABLE HABITS AND ACTIVITIES

Whatever is not from faith is sin. Romans 14:23b

Resolved: I will not go to bed this evening nor live this day without removing from my life every habit or activity I cannot be absolutely sure is approved by God. (1 Corinthians 10:31; Rom.13:14; Rom.14:14)

3. MAKE RIGHT ANY WRONGS BETWEEN YOURSELF AND OTHERS.

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. Matthew 5:23-24

Resolved: I will not go to bed this evening nor live this day without doing all that is possible to correct any wrongs between myself and others. (Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 18:15-35; Romans 12:17-21; Colossians 3:12-15) Confession to others should be as public as your sin and may include restitution.

4. COMMUNE WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER AND HIS WORD.

Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word. (Psalms 119:107b)

Pray without ceasing; (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Resolved: I will not go to bed this evening nor live this day without spending quiet moments with God in prayer and sincerely meditating on His Word. (1 Peter 2:2-3; John 17:17; John 16:23-24; Col. 3:15-15; Mark 11:22-26)

5. TRUST GOD TO USE YOU AS HIS INSTRUMENT IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20

Resolved: I will not go to bed this evening nor live this day without asking and expecting God to use me as an effective instrument in the lives of others. (2 Tim. 2:20-21; John 15:16; Col. 4:4-6; Jude 22-23; 1 Peter 4:11)

Review these resolves daily until your thinking conforms to holiness and your life is revived and useful. Never fail to apply them. It is often useful to write down what God shows you to do.

If you weaken in your desire and intensity for holiness, do not give up and return to a half-hearted, selfish life. Repent of your apathetic heart and lack of love for God immediately and continue. Do not allow sin to reign (see Rom. 6:12-13).

Ask God to bring some like-hearted friends with whom you may share regularly your failures, discoveries, and victories on the road to holiness. Pray together seriously for revival among yourselves and in others. In each meeting, review these resolves one by one, relating your progress or struggles; also discuss insights gained from Scripture. Make honesty and repentance your creed. Admonish each other with humility; speak the truth to each other in love. Do not doubt the value of such a gathering or God's ability to use you. God will fully support you. (2 Chr. 16:9)

At all times avoid religious pride.

Help me, O Lord my God; Save me according to Your lovingkindness. And let them know that this is Your hand; You, Lord, have done it. Psalm 109:26-27

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