

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

SCRIPTURE READING:

- **“¹⁸ Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. ¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert” (Isa 43:18-19).**
- **“⁵ Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Prov 3:5-6).**

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A New Year's Resolution is defined as a personal promise made at the beginning of the New Year to do something differently, such as, to achieve a positive goal, improve behavior or change a habit, often involving self-reflection and a new start for personal growth.**
- B. Christians often make New Year's Resolutions, such as reading the Bible daily, spending more time in prayer, memorizing scripture, attending church regularly, helping the needy, tithing faithfully, improving relationships, and focusing wholeheartedly on God and His will for their lives.**
- C. Matthew Henry's New Year resolution centered on complete dependence on Jesus Christ, desiring to do all things in His name, finding comfort in Him during trials, and relying on His mediation for life, death, and eternity, expressing this through a solemn surrender of himself and his affairs to God, often referencing Psalm 31:15, “My times are in your hand!”**
- D. Jonathan Edwards: A Simple New Year's Resolution**
 - “Resolution One: I will live for God.**
 - Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.”**

Theologian Jonathan Edwards sums up a New Year's Resolution rather simply: Live for God, it doesn't matter who doesn't join us in doing so, but only that we continually choose to do so every day. Let us remember Edwards' notable New Year's quote as we enter 2026 – To live for God and choose daily to do His will.” – (Great American Journal; Billy Hallowell).

PROPOSITION:

In this Bible Study, we will study ten New Year's Resolutions to help us in 2026 as we walk (our entire way of life, behavior, spiritual journey) with the Lord.

I WILL:

I. LIKE PAUL, FORGET THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND AND PRESS FORWARD (Phil 3:13-14)

- “¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:13-14).

A. “Forgetting those things which are behind,” means we are to let go of past failures, experiences, and achievements that could hinder spiritual growth and progress.

B. “Reaching forward to those things which are before” means we are to look forward to what God can help us to become. We are to grow in the grace and knowledge of God by concentrating on our relationship with Him. Also, stay focused on “...the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” and on the future hope and promises of God which includes the resurrection and eternal life with Jesus Christ in Heaven.

II. LIKE DAVID, LIFT UP MINE EYES UNTO THE HILLS FROM WHICH COMETH MY STRENGTH (Ps 121:1-2)

- “¹ I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. ² My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth” (Ps 121:1-2).

Always, hope and trust in the Lord for divine and earthly help. God is our Protector, Provider, True Friend, Counselor, and Heavenly Father. We should never trust a lesser power than God Himself. Also, God is the maker of “Heaven and Earth.”

- “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God” (Ps 20:7).

III. LIKE ABRAHAM, TRUST IMPLICITLY IN MY GOD (Gen 15:6; Heb 11:8)

- “And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness” (Gen 15:6).

- “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went” (Heb 11:8).

A. Always Believe in God Regardless of your Situation or Circumstances.

God promised Abraham that his wife Sarah would have a son and that his name would be Isaac. Abraham laughed at God’s promise with doubt as He was 100 years old and Sarah was ninety years old (beyond child bearing years). However, Abraham followed God’s command (Gen 17:20-27) and God declared him to be righteous.

B. The Birth of Isaac is recorded in Gen 21:1-7.

This passage details how God fulfilled His promise, giving Abraham and Sarah a son named Isaac.

- “And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God” (Luke 18:27).

- **Trust His Word**

Trust His Word, Trust His Word, All God's promises are true

Trust His Word, When your pathway disappears, when your joy gives way to tears

When you're plagued with doubts and fears, Trust His Word.

IV. LIKE ENOCH, WALK IN DAILY FELLOWSHIP WITH MY HEAVENLY FATHER

(Gen 5:24)

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

- "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" (Heb 11:5).

A. By Faith Enoch Walked with God for 300 Years which Pleased the Lord

Enoch lived a life of faith, obedience and communion with God. As a result of his walk with God, he was taken up directly to Heaven without experiencing death.

B. Our Walk with God is to be Daily – At All Times

It is not to be an occasional walk or when all is going well. Always walk with the Lord.

- **Trust and Obey**

When we walk with the Lord, in the light of His Word,

What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will,

He abides with us still, and all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus

But to Trust and Obey.

V. LIKE JEHOSEPHAT, PREPARE MY HEART TO SEEK GOD (2 Chron 19:3)

- "Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God" (2 Chron 19:3).

A. Jehoshaphat Removed the Asherah Poles

The Asherah Poles were wooden symbols associated with the worship of the Canaanite Goddess Asherah, which led to spiritual revival in Judah. Jehoshaphat removed the idol as he had great respect for the Word of God.

B. As Believers, we are to Remove Sin and Idols from our Lives

We must identify and eliminate anything that competes with our love and devotion to God.

- **First Commandment**

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exod 20:3).

- **Second Commandment**

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth" (Exod 20:4).

C. We Cannot Serve God Half-Heartedly

- “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matt 6:24).
- “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62).
- “¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth (Rev 3:15-16).

We cannot serve God and worldly possessions (money, idols, persons, self) equally – one will always take first place. God wants all of us – not a part of our lives or a casual commitment.

- “³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment” (Matt 22:36-38).

VI. LIKE MOSES, CHOOSE RATHER TO SUFFER THAN ENJOY THE PLEASURES OF SIN FOR A SEASON (Heb 11:24-25)

- “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” (Heb 11:24-25).

A. Moses is Known for Leading the Israelites Out of Egypt

When he became grown up (adult) – “Come to Years” – he refused to be identified as the son of Pharaoh's daughter which meant being part of a royal family with great power and wealth.

B. Moses Chose to Suffer Affliction with God's People

Moses suffered affliction with the Israelites rather than enjoying the privileges and pleasures of Egyptian royalty.

C. As Believers, we should always align with the Eternal Rewards of Faithfulness to God rather than the Temporary nature of Sin's pleasures.

- **The Joy of the Lord is Better Than the Pleasures of Sin**

A Russian countess accepted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour and was open about her testimony. The Tsar was displeased and threw her into prison. After 24 hours with the lowest level of Russian society, in the most miserable conditions imaginable, he ordered her brought into his presence. He smiled sardonically and said, “Well, are you ready now to renounce your silly faith and come back to the pleasures of the court?”

To his surprise, the countess smiled serenely and said, “I have known more real joy and more real happiness in one day in prison with Jesus than I have known in a lifetime in the courts of the Tsar.” She found out what was really the easy way – (Dr. R.B. Ouellette).

D. Biblical Command – Do Not Love This Evil World

- “¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17).

True love, joy, peace, and happiness are found in aligning our lives with God’s Will, not in worldly pleasures.

E. As Believers, be mindful of Christ’s teachings about storing of treasures in Heaven rather than on earth.

- “¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt 6:19-21).

VII. LIKE DANIEL, COMMUNE WITH MY GOD AT ALL TIMES (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” (Dan 6:10).
- A. Daniel Kneeled Three Times a Day and Prayed**

When Daniel became aware of the decree signed by King Darius which prohibited prayer to any god or man except the King for thirty days, he went to his house and with the windows being opened toward Jerusalem. He kneeled “three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”

Daniel’s pattern of praying three times a day indicates his strong relationship with God. He exhibited unwavering devotion to God, even in the face of persecution.

B. Believers Have Access to God Through Christ by Way of Prayer.

Prayer is the Believer’s line of communication with God.

1. We are to pray when things are going well and even when we are facing difficult situations.

2. We should have a regular, systematic prayer life – certain times of the day. We should pray for ourselves and others.
- “¹I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ²For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:1-4).

C. Key Verses for Consistent Prayer

- “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess 5:17).
- “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph 6:18).
- “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Col 4:2).
- “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1).
- “⁶Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:6-7).

Praying in joy, trouble, anxiety, and thankfulness, bring everything to God in prayer. Do not give up; keep asking, seeking and knocking.

D. Prayer Answered

Dr. Helen Roseveare, missionary to Zaire, told the following story. "A mother at our mission station died after giving birth to a premature baby. We tried to improvise an incubator to keep the infant alive, but the only hot water bottle we had was beyond repair. So we asked the children to pray for the baby and for her sister. One of the girls responded, 'Dear God, please send a hot water bottle today. Tomorrow will be too late because by then the baby will be dead. And dear Lord, send a doll for the sister so she won't feel so lonely.'

That afternoon a large package arrived from England. The children watched eagerly as we opened it. Much to their surprise, under some clothing was a hot water bottle! Immediately the girl who had prayed so earnestly started to dig deeper, exclaiming, 'If God sent that, I'm sure He also sent a doll!' And she was right! The heavenly Father knew in advance of that child's sincere requests, and 5 months earlier He had led a ladies' group to include both of those specific articles" – (Our Daily Bread).

VIII. LIKE JOSEPH, TURN MY BACK ON ALL SEDUCTIVE ADVANCES (Gen 39:12; 1 Cor 6:18)

- “And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out” (Gen 39:12).
- “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body” (1 Cor 6:18).
- “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Tim 2:22).

A. Potiphar’s Wife Tried Repeatedly to Seduce Joseph

Joseph refused her seductive advances. He would not betray his master’s confidence or sin against God. One day she caught him by his garment. He wiggled out of it and fled, leaving her holding it. He lost his coat but saved his character and eventually gained a crown.

B. Believers are to flee fornication, idolatry, and youthful lusts.

It is better to flee than to sin. Maintain a godly testimony for God – refuse sexual sins.

- **The Billy Graham Rule**

The **Modesto Manifesto** or **Billy Graham rule** is a code of conduct among male evangelical Protestant leaders, in which they avoid spending time alone with women to whom they are not married. It is adopted as a display of integrity, a means of avoiding sexual temptation, to avoid any appearance of doing something considered morally objectionable, as well as for avoiding accusations of sexual harassment or assault.

- “Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thess 5:22).

IX. LIKE ANDREW, STRIVE TO LEAD MY BROTHER TO CHRIST (John 1:40-42)

- “⁴⁰ One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone” (John 1:40-42).

A. Andrew Accepted John The Baptist’s Testimony About Jesus

After hearing about Jesus, Andrew immediately went to tell his brother Simon Peter about him. Andrew informed Simon Peter that Jesus is the Messiah.

B. Andrew Told Simon Peter and Later Told Others About Christ The Messiah

- “⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, ⁹ There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?” (John 6:8-9).
- “Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus” (John 12:22).

C. Simon Peter Believed in Christ as The Messiah

Simon Peter was introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew. Christ renamed Simon to “Cephas” to “Peter.”

D. We are to evangelize just as Andrew did – Tell others about Christ the Messiah and His Saving Grace.

○ A Blind, Illiterate Soulwinner

A missionary to Africa told the story of an elderly woman who was reached with the gospel. Though she was blind and could neither read nor write, she wanted to share her new found faith with others. She went to the missionary and asked for a copy of the Bible in French.

When she got it, she asked the missionary to underline John 3:16 in red and mark the page it was on so she could find it. The missionary wanted to see what she would do, so one day he followed her.

In the afternoon, just before school let out, she made her way to the front door. As the boys came out when school was dismissed, she would stop one and ask if he knew how to read French. When he said “Yes” she would ask him to read the verse that was marked in red. Then she would ask, “Do you know what this means?” and tell him about Christ.

The missionary said that twenty-four of the school boys that lady led to the Lord became pastors. – (Ministry 127 - Colossians and Philemon: The Supremacy of Christ, R. Kent Hughes)

- **Be sure to tell others about Christ, invite them to church, and pass out Gospel Tracts.**

X. LIKE TIMOTHY, STUDY THE WORD OF GOD (2 Tim 2:15)

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

A. Paul Encouraged Timothy to be Diligent to the Word of God

Timothy was encouraged by Paul to be diligent in presenting himself approved to God so that he would not be ashamed. This approval is done by rightly dividing the Word of Truth. This means to handle the scripture correctly – to manage rightly, to treat fully without falsifying.

B. Why Should We Study The Word of God?

1. It is God's Word to us (2 Tim 3:16)

It tells of who God is, where we came from, it covers Heaven and Hell, and how to become a Christian.

2. It is totally reliable and without error (Mark 2:1-12).

3. It does not change (Eccl 1:9).

4. It helps us to distinguish truth from error – False Teachings (John 14:6; Rom 3:10-18).

5. It equips us to serve God (2 Tim 3:17; Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12).

6. It shows us just how much God loves us (John 3:16; Rom 5:6-8).

POINTS TO PONDER:

A. Do not allow past achievements and failures to hinder your future spiritual growth.

B. Always trust and hope in the Lord.

C. Continue to trust in God even when circumstances seem impossible to accomplish.

D. Maintain a daily walk with God.

**E. Do not allow anyone or anything to compete with your love and devotion for God.
Always keep God in first place in your life.**

F. Be a faithful soulwinner – tell others about Christ the Messiah and His Saving Grace.

G. Maintain an active and consistent prayer life with God. We serve a prayer answering God – Stay in touch with Him.

CHALLENGE:

Vowing and Paying

- “⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. ⁵ Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay” (Eccl 5:4-5).

A. When you make any Vows - Plan to Fulfill Them

Be mindful that making vows are voluntary and vows made are a serious matter. Do not make a vow that you do not **plan** on fulfilling. Once a vow is made, it is unbreakable.

- “²¹ When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. ²² But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee” (Deut 23:21-22).

B. Do Not Make a Vow that You Cannot Fulfill

- “It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make enquiry” (Prov 20:25).

C. God takes vows seriously and requires that they be carried out. Therefore, it is better not to make a vow than to make a vow and break it.

D. Jesus said, it is better not to make vows to God because He know how difficult they are to keep.

- “³³ Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: ³⁴ But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: ³⁵ Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil” (Matt 5:33-37).

MEMORY VERSE:

“But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil” (Matt 5:37).

CONCLUSION:

A. Be mindful, that you cannot achieve Resolutions by your own strength. Depend on God – allow Him to lead and guide you with any vows that you make to Him.

- “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil 4:13).

B. ABC’s of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you’re a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)

Notes:

- Main points taken from: **A New Year’s Resolution** by George Burger (The Sword of the Lord, Dec 19, 2025).
- Bible Verses and Exposition added.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From the Teaching Ministry of:
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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).