

Don't Ever Forget

Happy New You

- * I am so amazed how easy it is to have New Year's resolutions.

My thought is this: For years, I was really shallow in setting plans and goals for the future.

I wondered what it would be like if we who serve God did something completely different.

But in addition to those resolutions:

1. Can we think about spiritual things because God has a very specific and high purpose for your life.
 - God's purpose will never be seen or understood outside of a relationship with Him.

This morning, I want to give you two practical things that are very attainable to be added to your New Year's resolutions.

Here is the first:

- A. That you plan to love Jesus more.

As you turn, let me explain the difference between a resolution and a plan.

- A resolution simply is a commitment to a purpose.
- A plan says, this is how I'm going to accomplish this commitment.

Here is one of the greatest deceptions in a Christian life or church today:

2. Thinking that spirituality is just one of those things that just sort of happen when we **show up**.
3. Each and every one of us need a **plan** to love Jesus more.

Question: What's your plan?

Let me help you and give you a couple of specific things to carry out a plan to love Jesus more.

- First – to **pray**
4. Even though prayer is **simple**, it's not that **easy**.

Let me tell about a book I read:

- Written by Leonard Ravinhill – died 1994
- Title: Why A Revival Tarries

Page 19 literally ruined me in two statements

- Ministers who do not spend **two** hours a day in prayer are not worth a dime a dozen. By our **attitude** towards prayer, we tell God what has begun in the **Spirit**, we can finish in the **flesh**.
- Pastor Ravinhill was not being **legalistic** with this statement.

It must warrant **time** with God - His presence, or you will face things you can't **handle**.

Church family: My life has never been the same by being in God's **presence**.

5. You don't fetch God with **programs** of prayer, God wants **relationship**.

Joshua 1:7-8

Verse 7-8 is not just talking about **financial** prosperity.

6. It is God's will for your life to be one of those people that everything you touch turns to **gold**.

Joshua 1:8

Psalms 1:1-3

Number one is **prayer**.

The second is:

- **Meditation** on God's Word.

What does that mean?

7. Biblical meditation is filling by speaking God's Word; there becomes a focus into the Word of God that your mind and heart becomes filled with the knowledge of God's Word.

- It is God using your **mouth** to direct your **mind** to affect your **heart**.

Psalms 55:17 - words of David

Daniel 6:10

8. It's not how **long** you pray but that you pursue God out of **love**.

Ephesians 1:17-19 - Paul prays this

Every time you plan to pray or speak God's Word, you must worship.

Psalm 100:4

Somebody asked him one day a question:

Mr. Carver, how did you think of 150 uses of the peanut?

Answer: Anything will yield its secrets to you if you love it enough.

You cannot find it in a program.

Here is the second resolution:

B. Set your heart on Heaven

- The Father has arranged a marriage for you.

There is a picture in the Bible.

There are six cases in scripture where someone witnessed Heaven and wrote about what he saw.

The clearest one is found in Revelation 4.

Psalm 84:10

David had seen the beauty of God in Heaven.

The only description you can trust is found in scripture.

Revelation 4:1-11

If you become familiar with Heaven, your hearts will change.