

Think On This



2017 – Purpose in Heart

The New Year is now upon us, and many in our society have made resolutions as to what they are going to change in their lives. However resolutions are quickly forgotten. Why are resolutions so quickly abandoned? Is it possible that failed resolutions are often the result of a lack of determination and focus? Is it also possible that this is a problem affecting one's decision in becoming a Christian or developing to spiritual maturity? Remember every individual has the potential of becoming an effective worker in the body of Christ, yet "potential" without action produces nothing. One must be determined to submit to the teachings of Christ and not lose focus on his or her goal. As we consider the importance of "**determination**" and "**focus**", as it applies to being a Christian, I am reminded of the lesson, "*When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.*" (Acts 11:23) Therefore as we embark upon 2017, let us consider the following:

Obey The Gospel

If you are reading this article and as of yet have not obeyed the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, (Acts 2:37-41 & Mark 16:16) what's holding you back? Are you aware that you are forfeiting the unsearchable riches of Christ as you continue to delay in your obedience? (Ephesians 3:8) Perhaps you intend to obey the gospel someday, yet good intentions do not give you access to the precious blood of our Lord. Maybe you are worried that you will not be able to "live up" to the standard of the teachings of Christ? You must not cling to this unhealthy mindset of procrastination. YOUR soul is at risk! You can serve the Lord faithfully if you purpose in your heart to do so. YOU can live in such a way to glorify God. The application of the scriptures eliminates the unproductive and destructive mindset of the "I Can't" attitude and replaces it with the positive attitude of, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" (Philippians 4:13) Why wait? Resolve that you are going to put on Christ today. (Galatians 3:26-27) You won't regret your decision as you obey from the heart the gospel of Christ. (Romans 6:17)

Stay Active

To those who have obeyed the Gospel, consider the following questions. Are you growing in the grace and knowledge of God? (2nd Peter 3:18) Will you remain consistent in assembling with the saints at every opportunity available? (Hebrews 10:25) Are you actively involved in the building up of the body of Christ? (Ephesians 4:16) Does your example before others glorify God? (Matthew 5:13-16 & Philippians 2:14-16) Are you praying for open doors and sharing the precious gospel with others as the opportunity arises? (Colossians 4:3 & Acts 8:4)

You can be effective in all of the afore mentioned areas if you simply purpose in your heart to do so. Let us resolve to live for Christ just as Paul did when he taught, "*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*" (Galatians 2:20) Remember Paul also states, "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*" (1st Corinthians 15:58) **WE CAN DO IT!**

**** Chuck Kozens