

E-DEVOTION FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

I looked up the meaning of the word RESOLVE. It says, "to decide firmly on a course of action." Why would I even bother to do that? Well, of course... because I have made a few 'Resolutions' for this new year.

We were only 2 days in and I broke the first one. Now... here we are 5 days in and I am 'standing firm.' I AM going to exercise more this year! I AM going to eat less! I WILL lose those extra pounds.

I am standing firm in my RESOLVE. I do it every year. And by about mid-January I find myself just losing ground. I tried to find some help in Scripture... there were a few verses I could apply here but the one I settled on is in I Corinthians 15, verse 58: *"So then, my dear brothers (and sisters), stand firm and steady."*

Good advice, for sure. As we opened the calendar for 2021 there were nothing but empty spaces. I 'resolved' to fill those days with good work! Not to waste a single moment on unnecessary worries or frustrations. We had enough of that last year. I have 'resolved' to start each day with a prayer for the right attitude... positive thoughts... a smile... an open heart... a loving spirit.

I'm probably not being very realistic, am I? Surely, there will be some hard times in this year, as well. More than likely, I'll come home one day with a scowl on my face and a 'stinking' attitude. We are only human, right?

So, what are we to do as we begin a year with all kinds of new possibilities? Be realistic, sure. But also... let's 'resolve' to make more of an effort to do what Jesus tells us to do... "Love our neighbor the way we love ourselves." As I feel so good about where I am headed this year... I do love myself. But that's not enough, we are reminded. Let's make a genuine effort to show understanding, compassion, and love to all people.

We're putting some tough times behind us. I really think... no, I KNOW... it's time to RESOLVE to do a better job at living together. In our homes, our neighborhoods, our communities, our churches... for sure, in our nation... and in our world.

It's time to RESOLVE to do better.

Keep on washing your hands, fold them, bow your heads, ask God for help in resolving to be better. And get that vaccine when you can.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, I need to work harder at loving my neighbor. Even the ones I don't like very much, don't agree with. You are the One who told us how to do these difficult things. Give us strength to do what needs to get done this new year. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.