

Did you make a New Year's Resolution in 2014? If so, how did you do? Were you 'resolute'?

I do not get excited about New Year resolutions. However, as a school teacher I made new resolutions prior to each school year. I guess it is not that important *when* a resolution is made. For some folks the end of calendar year is the end of a cycle. For others it might be some kind of cycle at work. For some, there are no regular cycles, but times of transition.

Resolutions mark a beginning, and often an end. Looking forward to the future, anticipating better things, a resolution comes from a desire for change. It may be that you want to do something you have never done before. Or, you may have a desire to put negative habits or experiences in the past.

Resolutions come after genuine reflection. Naturally, the ending of some sort of cycle in life is a perfect time for reflection on the past and the formulation of future goals. I would guess that resolutions that are little more than passing whims or impromptu thoughts are the most difficult to keep.

Every year articles are written a month or two into the new year describing broken resolutions. Perhaps this occurs because many people are not *resolute* when making resolutions. Let's take a peek at Webster's definition:

res·o·lute (rez'ə loot') *adj.* having or showing a fixed, firm purpose; determined; resolved; unwavering —*SYN.* See FAITHFUL.

These are strong words. Each begs the use of 'all caps:'

FIRM PURPOSE.

DETERMINED.

UNWAVERING.

A synonym for *resolute* is FAITHFUL.

Have you ever considered your Christianity a *resolution*? Was your decision RESOLUTE?

Resolution: God's will, not mine.

He knelt down and began to pray, saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." (Luke 22:41-42 NASB)

Resolution: Die to self, Follow Jesus.

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23 NASB)

Resolution: Living Sacrifice, Holy Sacrifice.

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. (Romans 12:1-2 NASB)

Whether you make a New Year's resolution or not, be RESOLUTE in your Christian walk.