

Delight Yourself in the Lord: How to Walk a Successful Path in 2018

"Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37: 4)

Don't Fret or Get Mad about Your Resolutions

Don't get mad or worry about making your goals and resolutions too large. Psalm 37: 1 - 2 alludes to why: "Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away."

The word for 'evil' also means things that break into pieces. Don't fret. We can take our resolutions and break them down into goals we can pursue and obtain by making them smaller. This is the work 1 John talks about when it says, "perfect love casts out fear". (1 John 4: 18)

What we fear or fret about likes to make itself large in our lives. Our job in aligning ourselves to the Lord is turning them back into small things again. Also, we're turning our focus away from those who seem to reach their goals so easily because like the grass described in verse two we may be looking at things springing up and not see the whole picture.

To take delight in the Lord means we will focus on what the Lord is doing in us and not compare ourselves to a different person. So, we ask ourselves, how can I break into pieces seemingly large or bold resolutions? With the weight goal I shared two days ago, if I only think about the total amount, 40 pounds is way too much for my will or passion to make it to the goal.

But, if I break it into pieces, it becomes very easy to stay motivated and take the necessary steps to lose 1 pound 40 times. For me to reach my goal, I can celebrate every nine days by losing one pound.

By December 1, 2018 I will also have written 700 consecutive, daily blogs. Now, focusing on the big number is way too many to sit down and write but focusing on developing a daily habit is something I already know I can do.

Trust in the Lord and Accomplish All that You Resolve.

"Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture." (Psalm 37: 3)

2018 is set for you to have the most consistent and constant relationship with the Lord you have ever experienced. There is going to be a direct correspondence between you familiarizing and acclimating yourself with the Lord's ways and the good accomplishments you make part of your routine.

This word for trust here implies you are gaining confidence from repeatedly coming to and confiding in the Lord. You will be adding speed to both your repentance and your faith in the year ahead. You will know what you need to do because you will know in a truer fashion what the Lord is doing when He "works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." (Philippians 2: 13)

As far as your resolutions are concerned, you have the added confidence of knowing you are pursuing what the Lord has commanded you to pursue. You are acting in obedience to hearing from the Lord.

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Build up your confidence in realizing your resolutions by beating a path to the Lord. The more intimate your relationship with Jesus becomes the more intense will be your outward expressions of devotion and obedience, including the pursuit of your resolutions. The more still and quiet you are before the presence of the Lord the more expansively you will realize the help of the Holy Spirit in all you do.

There is a very direct promise. God will give you the prayers of your heart. "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." 1 John 5: 14 - 15)

Listen to what the Apostle tells us, especially when you are looking at yourself in the mirror. "If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life." (1 John 5: 16) If we fall behind in the path of realizing our resolutions, remember this promise and apply it quickly. Don't allow the antibodies of sin and neglect to keep your prayers from being answered.

Commit Your Way to the LORD.

This is the way you roll. This is the way you are blessed. You're doing what the Lord wants you to do. You are accomplishing what the Lord called you to accomplish.

Jesus tried to explain this to his disciples. "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." (John 4: 32) Nobody is going to get as excited as you over accomplishing what God has asked *you* to do. Other people are going to have their own concerns.

The disciples weren't concerned over Jesus' fulfillment of the Father's will. They were worried about how he might have gotten lunch. "Then his disciples said to each other, 'Could someone have brought him food?'" (John 4: 33)

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." (John 4: 34) To the uncommitted there is always plenty of time to get around to our resolutions and to

whatever God wants us to do. There are always other considerations that will claim our time and attention.

Jesus tells us not to say we have plenty of time. Jesus tells us not to say, if it's supposed to happen, it will happen. Instead, Jesus says, "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4: 35) To the committed, delays in obedience are eliminated. Excuses are dead on arrival.

It's Time to Rise and Shine Daily!

"Trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun." (Psalm 37: 5 - 6)

God is committed to doing something in us. "The LORD said to me, 'You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled'." (Jeremiah 1: 12) So, if your resolutions are a reflection and expression of God's word to you then, God is going to be watching on full alert over you to see His word turn into deeds, turn into accomplishments, turn into signs of praise for others to see.

Rest the Days of the New Year into the Lord's Hands.

Finally, "be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil."

God expects you to be astonished throughout 2018 with how much is being accomplished in your life. Through all the twists and turns ahead, God expects you to turn back to Him. You'll be like our six month old granddaughter, who upon seeing Christmas lights for the first time, could be happy in anyone's lap as long as she could twist and turn to observe the lights on the tree.

This is the way you'll be. You'll brave any adversity. Work your way through the unexpected changes and challenges to your schedule as long as you can twist and turn your way back to remaining faithful to the Lord's commands for you before a day is finished.

Expect other people to want to stick with what they want. Let them know you have a priority of sticking to your resolutions. That's what you want. God has set the commands in place for what He wants to accomplish in you.

What God commands of you will not always coincide with what everybody else needs to do. Get used to it.

At the end of the year, you will not be accountable to the 'interrupters' but to God. Rest the year ahead and every day in it with the Lord.

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