

Resolving To Follow The Lord



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

Resolving To Follow The Lord

Learn why and how you should resolve to follow the Lord

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW40

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Resolving To Follow The Lord

Every time a new year rolls around you hear many people talk of making certain *resolutions*. They evaluate their lives in their current condition – and consider what areas they would like to make changes in as they anticipate the coming of the new year. Many New Year’s resolutions are set to lose weight, to exercise, to change certain habits, to become more successful, to learn some new skill, etc., etc., etc.

The practice of making resolutions is a good thing. It is good for us to take time (whether it is at the time of the New Year or any time throughout the year) to evaluate our lives currently and determine what steps we need to take to get where we want to be during our lives.

The word “resolve” means to make up your mind beforehand. For instance, before the next year even begins, those who make New Year’s resolutions already determine how they will live differently than they lived in the current year. Then, whenever challenges to their goals come along, they can overcome those challenges – because they have already decided/predetermined their course of action!

Now, there are many good resolutions you can make that will improve your physical life. However, there is no greater resolution you need to make than resolving to follow the Lord! In Acts 11:19-21, there were many in Antioch who turned to the Lord. When the church in Jerusalem heard this wonderful news, they sent Barnabas (who was known as an encourager) to these new Christians (Acts 11:22). Then, Acts 11:23 says, “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.”

Let’s consider this passage from a few other translations. The English Standard Version says, “When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose.” The Holman Christian Standard Bible says, “When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged all of them to remain true to the Lord with a firm resolve of the heart.” The New Revised Standard Version says, “When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion.” Finally, the New American Standard Bible says, “Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord.”

So, in all of these translations, the idea is one of purposeful devotion/resolution to serving the Lord! Again, keeping with the idea of making up your mind beforehand, this would imply that you make up your mind to serve the Lord prior to any temptations or trials!

Resolving to follow the Lord is the most meaningful resolution you will ever make. It will change your life (for the better) in every area – though there will be great sacrifices associated with it. Ultimately, it will result in the eternal salvation of your soul in Heaven! But, there are many challenges that are involved in resolving to follow the Lord. So, this lesson simply aims to encourage you to make a determined resolution to follow the Lord (i.e. to make up your mind that you will follow the Lord) – and to help you carry out your resolution.

Why Resolve To Follow The Lord?

It is far easier not to resolve to follow the Lord. So, why should you make such a determined resolution that you will be true (faithful) to the Lord in all areas of your life? Please consider these

fundamental reasons that should cause you to resolve to follow the Lord.

You were created for that purpose

First, you should resolve to follow the Lord because you were created for that very purpose! God is the Almighty Creator of the universe! All of the elements of His marvelous creation manifests the fact that there was a Creator (see Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:19-21). Not only did this All-Powerful God create the universe; but, He also created you – and He created man in His own image to possess a soul (Genesis 1:26-27).

But, why did this All-Powerful God create you? Quite simply, He created you so that you would glorify Him! Psalm 139:14 says, “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.” Isaiah 43:7 says, “Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”

You see, God did not give you life so that you could live a few self-serving years on this earth in pursuit of your own pleasure! Instead, He created you for the greatest purpose of all – to live in such a way so as to bring Him (the Almighty Creator of the universe) glory. Therefore, Solomon concluded that fearing God and keeping His commandments is mankind’s entire duty on earth (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)!

You will be judged and spend eternity somewhere

Second, you should resolve to follow the Lord because you will be judged and spend eternity *somewhere*. Your life on this earth is only temporary – and the things you enjoy in this life are only temporary. Your money, possessions, house, and car are only temporary. The things that you do for pleasure during your life are only temporary. Your earthly relationships are only temporary. That’s why Jesus said to store up treasures in Heaven (where your treasures cannot be taken away from you) instead of storing up treasures on earth (where your treasures only last for a short while), in Matthew 6:19-21!

In Luke 12:16-21, Jesus taught a parable of a rich farmer who determined that he would tear down his existing barns and build larger ones so that he could store all of the things that he had. He determined within himself that he would just take it easy and enjoy his life. However, this man made no plans involving the Lord. Then, verses 20-21 says, “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

So, when your life is over, someone else will inherit everything that you’ve worked so hard to accumulate and those things will not benefit you at all! In addition, the pleasures of sin that you may desire while you live on this earth are only temporary (see Hebrews 11:25).

When your life is over you will stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ and be judged for how you have lived your life on the earth, whether good or evil (2 Corinthians 5:10). The standard/criteria that will be used in your judgment will be the word of God (the Bible). Consider the picture of the Judgment scene in Revelation 20:11-15: “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

If you lived your earthly life according to the instructions in God’s word (the Bible), you will be welcomed to spend eternity with God in Heaven – a place of comfort and rest (see Matthew 25:34, 46 and Revelation 21-22). However, if you did not live your earthly life according to the instructions in God’s word, you will be sentenced to spend eternity in Hell – a place of pain and anguish (see Matthew 25:41, 46 and Revelation 21:8). So, the question for you is:

What will you give in exchange for your soul (Matthew 16:26)?

Jesus died for you so that you would

Third, you should resolve to follow the Lord because Jesus Christ died for you so that you would resolve to follow Him. Romans 5:6-11 reveals how that Jesus Christ was willing to die even for those who were not living according to God's instructions. Therefore, Jesus Christ was willing to leave Heaven, come to the earth, be abused, mocked, spat on, beaten, falsely accused, and put to death by crucifixion so that you could be forgiven of your sins!

Consider, then, what Titus 2:11-14 says concerning the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

As you consider this passage, you will notice that the grace of God (the opportunity God has given you to be saved from your sins) is meant to lead you away from living in ungodly ways – and lead you to living in ways that please God! Then, notice that Jesus Christ gave His life in order to redeem for Himself a people who would be zealous to do His good works! Therefore, Jesus Christ did *not* give His life so that you could live for your own pleasures. Instead, He gave His life so that you would live for Him!

Jesus is the Way

Fourth, you should resolve to follow the Lord because Jesus Christ is the Way. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Now, consider that Jesus Christ is the Way to a happy life on this earth. Most people are looking for the keys to unlocking a happy life on earth. They seek happiness through financial wealth, through

physical pleasures, through earthly relationships, and through many other earthly things. However, true happiness is only found through following the Lord! Yet, this happiness doesn't come in the form you might expect it to. In Matthew 5:3-12, for instance, Jesus made a series of statements that each begin with the phrase, "Blessed are..." The word that is translated as "blessed" by most translations is the same Greek word for "happy." So, Jesus is showing the way to a truly happy life! And, though following His way results in sacrifices and sufferings, it is truly the only way to have a happy life on this earth because it is full of hope for the life that is to come – and one that is full of spiritual blessings! Therefore, Paul (even though he was in prison) could say, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).

Then, as you consider John 14:6, Jesus is the Way to eternal life in Heaven. This is really the point that is made in the text. Jesus is the Way to life in Heaven with the Father! It is only through Jesus Christ that you can be forgiven of your past sins and be in fellowship with your holy and righteous God! It is this hope for eternal life with God in Heaven that makes this life worth living!

You should resolve to follow the Lord!

For these reasons, you should resolve to follow the Lord: (1) Because you were created for that purpose – and living for anything else fails to fulfill your true purpose in life. (2) Because you will be judged by Jesus Christ by the criteria of God's word and (based on that judgment) you will spend eternity *somewhere* – either in Heaven or in Hell. (3) Because Jesus Christ died for you (enduring all manner of hatred and mistreatment) so that you could be forgiven of your sins and devote your life to serving Him. (4) Because Jesus Christ is the only Way that leads to a truly happy life on this earth – and eternal life in Heaven.

Why Resolve Is Needed

Now that we have seen the motivation behind this resolution to follow the Lord, let's spend a little time thinking about why a resolution is even needed.

Godliness will always require a resolute heart

The things that are most worthwhile require effort! That is true physically – and it is true spiritually. For instance, physical exercise is a worthwhile endeavor. Yet, it requires effort – and doesn't just happen by chance. Instead, you will often be tempted to take it easy and do something that is less strenuous. However, if you give in to the desire for this ease and comfort, you sacrifice all of the benefits that exercise will bring.

Similarly, godliness (living in the way that pleases God) will require a determined effort to be made. As we will see in just a moment, it is much *easier* to do whatever appeals to your fleshly desires at any given moment than it is to deny those fleshly desires in order to serve the Lord! However, giving in to those fleshly desires (though it may result in instant gratification) does not lead to the lasting joy that comes from living a Christian life!

How do I know that godliness will always (100% of the time) require a resolute heart? Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” It takes little or no effort to follow the crowd and do whatever pleases your own desires at any given moment. Thus, many will choose to live their lives in this way. However, Jesus says that the way to eternal life in Heaven is “difficult.” It is difficult because it is the way that requires self-denial and discipline. It is difficult because it takes great focus and spiritual strength. Thus, few will choose to live their lives in this way.

Also, consider what is said in Hebrews 2:1: “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.” Notice a

couple important points made in this verse. First, we need to “give the more earnest heed” (or, pay very close and careful attention) to the message of the gospel we have heard. Again, this takes focus, determination, and self-discipline. We need to carefully listen to, examine, and obey the great message of salvation! Second, we need to pay such careful attention to this message of salvation “lest we drift away.” Now, the idea of *drifting* is a gradual leaving over a period of time (as a ship without an anchor will slowly drift away from the shore). This implies that if we are not maintaining our resolve to follow the Lord that we will gradually leave Him! The remedy, as we saw, is to “give the more earnest heed” to the saving message of the gospel!

The way of the flesh is contrary to the way of God

One of the reasons that godliness will require such a strong resolute heart is because the way of the flesh is contrary to the way of God (the Spirit). This is plainly demonstrated in Galatians 5:16-26. Notice what Paul wrote in Galatians 5:16-18: “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

The text goes on to explain how the two (the flesh and the Spirit) are contrary to one another. In Galatians 5:19-21, it explains how that the flesh wants us to fulfill its desires by participating in things like: fornication, adultery, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, and revelries. Paul plainly states that those who are involved in these (and similar) things will not inherit the kingdom of God!

Then, the text demonstrates what following the way of God will produce in our lives. Galatians 5:22-23 identifies the “fruit of the Spirit” as: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Contrary to the things in the previous list, there is no law against these things!

Clearly, the flesh and the Spirit pull you in two very different directions – and you must choose between them. In fact, 1 Peter 2:11-12 says that the fleshly lusts (desires) “war against the soul”! So, this is not a small conflict! This is a war for your soul – to determine whether your soul will spend eternity in Heaven or in Hell! Consequently, being victorious in this war will not happen *accidentally*. Instead, it will require the kind of resolute heart/determined purpose we are discussing in this lesson! Galatians 5:24-25 identifies this when it says, “And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

Satan tempts you to sin

This war for your soul that is fought between following the ways of the flesh and following the ways of God is intensified by the fact that you have an enemy who wants to destroy you (spiritually speaking). 1 Peter 5:8-9 identifies Satan as being your “adversary” (enemy), who is pictured as walking around like a roaring lion, seeking an opportunity to devour you!

James 1:14-15 describes how Satan will tempt you. You are tempted by Satan as Satan uses your earthly desires – and tries to entice you to fulfill those earthly desires in ways that God has not approved. When you are enticed and act to fulfill those earthly desires in unlawful ways, you commit sin – which results in spiritual death (compare with Romans 6:23).

Thus, as you fight this war for your soul, you have an enemy who is pictured as having schemes for defeating you (Ephesians 6:11). He learns your weaknesses and attempts to attack you through those areas. In addition, he is pictured as hurling “fiery darts” at you (Ephesians 6:16).

However, God has promised that you can overcome Him – and has even given you the necessary armor to be able to do so (read Ephesians 6:10-18 and 1 Corinthians 10:13). 1 Peter 5:8-9 exhorts you to be self-controlled (sober), be watchful (vigilant), resist Him, and remain steadfast in your faith! All of these instructions imply a determined

purpose and resolute heart to do God’s will rather than giving in to the lies and manipulations of Satan!

You need resolve to follow the Lord!

For the four reasons I stated earlier, you need to resolve to follow the Lord. But, now I want you to appreciate the fact that resolve is absolutely essential to following the Lord! Quite simply, if you will not resolve to follow the Lord, you will not follow Him acceptably!

How To Resolve To Follow The Lord

Having established the proper motivation and the need for making a resolution to follow the Lord, now let’s focus on how to actually accomplish this great task!

You can do all things through Christ!

You may think that there is just too much pulling *against* you to make a resolution to follow the Lord in your life. Satan is pulling you away from following the Lord. Perhaps your family is pulling you away from following the Lord. Perhaps your friends are pulling you away from following the Lord. Perhaps it’s your job. Perhaps it’s your possessions. Perhaps it’s your past.

Whatever is pulling you away from following the Lord, you must recognize that Jesus Christ is stronger – and that, through Him, you ***can*** resolve to follow the Lord! As the apostle Paul faced many difficult circumstances resulting from living for the Lord, he wrote the encouraging words of Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Just as Paul did, you can overcome all of the obstacles that are pulling you away from following the Lord through Jesus Christ – who will give you the strength that you need to be victorious in the war for your soul! But, you must resolve to follow Him in order to find this strength!

Now, this does not mean that following the Lord will always be easy. When Paul wrote those

words, he was in prison for preaching the gospel of Christ. You will continue to experience temptation. You will experience mistreatment from those who hate the gospel of Jesus Christ (perhaps even from within your own family, see Matthew 10:34-39). However, Christ will enable you to overcome all of these obstacles!

As you consider how you can resolve to follow the Lord, I want to offer a few examples that will help you. In the great arena of faith (in which living a Christian life is compared to running a race), Hebrews 12:1 encourages that godly men and women (through their great examples, like those described in Hebrews chapter 11) are cheering for you and helping you to live your life for the Lord – encouraging you to lay aside everything that slows you down and hinders you from living for the Lord. So, let’s consider a few examples that will help you understand what resolving to follow the Lord really looks like.

Abraham

Hebrews 11:17-19 says, “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”

Because of Abraham’s great trust in the Almighty God, being convinced that God would fulfill the promises He had previously made to Abraham, Abraham devoted Himself to do whatever God instructed! This passage, specifically, discusses Abraham’s obedience to God’s command to sacrifice his only son (Isaac) as a burnt sacrifice upon the altar (as recorded in Genesis 22:1-19). Yet, because of Abraham’s faith in God, he was resolved to obey the Lord – even though it wasn’t the easy or “logical” thing to do!

Joseph

As God had blessed Joseph, Joseph became in charge of the house of his Egyptian master (Potiphar). Genesis 39:5-7 then records how that Potiphar’s wife attempted to entice Joseph to commit

adultery with her. However, carefully consider Joseph’s response: “But he refused and said to his master's wife, ‘Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’” (Genesis 39:8-9).

Please notice that Joseph had resolved to follow the Lord – and not commit any kind of wickedness against God! He had already made this determination in his heart. Therefore, when the temptation presented itself, he did not have to question what his proper course of action should be. He had already decided that he would follow the Lord! Therefore, even as the temptation by Potiphar’s wife became more intense (in Genesis 39:10-12), Joseph’s answer did not change – and he literally ran away from the temptation!

Moses

When Moses was very young, he became the “adopted” grandson of the king of Egypt (through the events recorded in Exodus 2:1-10). Just think about the kind of life Moses could have had in this position – think about the wealth, the prestige, the worldly pleasures, etc.! Yet, consider what Hebrews 11:24-26 says about him: “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”

Because of Moses’ faith in God and recognition of a future reward, he was willing to sacrifice all earthly things in order to follow the Lord! He openly rebelled against the royal family he had been adopted into. He denied himself of the pleasures of sin. He suffered “affliction” with God’s people. Why did he resolve himself to do these things? Because he recognized that the pleasures of sin were only “passing” and because He looked to the reward God will give the faithful!

The prodigal son

In Luke 15:11-32, Jesus teaches the parable of the prodigal son. At first, the prodigal son had not resolved to live in a way that was pleasing to his father. He demanded his portion of his father's inheritance and departed from his house. For a period of time, he lived recklessly – doing whatever he desired to do. Then, when he spent all of his inheritance, he found himself in desperate need during a time of famine. He tried to survive on his own by hiring himself out to a pig farmer, agreeing to feed the pigs. However, he still could not supply his own needs – and reached a point at which he would have been happy to eat the food he was feeding the pigs! Then, when he was at this very low point in his life, the text says that he “came to himself” and determined to go back to his father – which the text goes on to describe.

Though this example is in the form of a parable, it is extremely beneficial in helping us understand how we can always resolve to follow the Lord – no matter how reckless we have been with our decisions in the past. Just as the father in the parable was eagerly looking for his son's return and rejoiced upon his return, God has made every provision for you to live for Him (by sending His Son to die for you) – and will rejoice when you come to Him (no matter what you have done in the past)! However, like the prodigal son, you must come to yourself (come to your senses), recognizing that living for God is far better than living for your own desires – and determine to go to Him (by doing what He has instructed you to do in order to be saved)!

Parables of the hidden treasure and the valuable pearl

Two other parables Jesus taught will prove to be helpful as you learn how to resolve to follow the Lord. These are the parables Jesus taught in Matthew 13:44-46 – the parables of the hidden treasure and the valuable pearl: “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,

who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

In both of these parables, consider that the one who buys the field and the pearl does so because of their great value. In fact, he believes them to be of such great value that he is even willing to sell the things he was in possession of in order to have the more valuable things. Jesus says this is how the kingdom of Heaven (the opportunity to be part of His church and be eternally saved) should be for you! You should so greatly desire the opportunity to be counted among God's people and be saved eternally in Heaven that you are willing to do whatever God wants you to do – realizing the blessings you will miss out on if you don't follow Him!

Will You Resolve To Follow The Lord?

Having established all that we have established during this lesson, now it is time to ask yourself, “Will I resolve to follow the Lord?”

Yes or no

Sometimes we have a tendency to make decisions more difficult than they really are. Sometimes we even do this regarding the decision to follow the Lord. But, in reality, the decision is actually an easy one to make (though it may be difficult to carry out).

Regarding your decision to resolve to follow the Lord, it is as simple as “yes” or “no.” There is no in-between or partial decision to follow the Lord. Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad” (Matthew 12:30). So, which will it be for you? Will you resolve to follow the Lord? Or, will you resolve *not* to follow the Lord?

Some areas to consider

There are many specific resolutions you can make as you resolve to follow the Lord. Here are a few suggestions to you get started.

- Resolve to study and meditate on God’s word daily, like the Bereans (in Acts 17:10-11), so that you can keep yourself away from sin (Psalm 119:11).
- Resolve to become a Christian and have your sins forgiven. You do so by hearing God’s word (Romans 10:17), believing (John 8:24), repenting of your sins (Acts 17:30), confessing Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and being immersed in water (Acts 2:38).
- Resolve to practice New Testament Christianity by doing all things by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17).
- Resolve to correct any sin in your life (if you have previously taken the steps to become a Christian) by repenting of your sin, confessing your sin to God, and asking Him for forgiveness (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:8-2:2).
- Resolve to put first things first in your life, choosing to put God first in your life and not to become distracted by other things (Matthew 6:33; Matthew 6:22-24).
- Resolve to glorify God in every area of your life (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:31).
- Resolve to put on the whole armor of God, so that you can be victorious over the devil (Ephesians 6:10-18).
- Resolve to give God complete control over your life – over your decisions, your thoughts, your words, your actions, your relationships, your emotions, etc. (Proverbs 3:5-6; James 4:7; Colossians 3).
- Resolve to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).
- Resolve to become more like Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:1; Luke 9:23).
- Resolve to show Christ to others through your life (Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 2:14-15).
- Resolve to build strong relationships by fulfilling your God-given roles, pursuing peace with all men, and attempting to make amends with those you’ve hurt in the past (Colossians 3:18-4:1; Romans 12:18; Matthew 5:23-26).
- Resolve to use your words for good and not for evil (Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 15:1).
- Resolve to practice good stewardship (1 Corinthians 4:2; Matthew 25:14-30).
- Resolve to encourage others (Hebrews 3:12-13; Proverbs 12:25; Acts 11:23).
- Resolve to be a doer of God’s word in all areas and not be a hearer only (James 1:22; Luke 6:46; James 2:10).

Conclusion

Have you resolved to follow the Lord? If not, will you resolve to follow the Lord? You will probably make many different resolutions during the course of your lifetime. However, when your earthly life ends and you stand before Jesus Christ on the Day of Judgment, with your eternity hanging in the balance, no other resolution will matter than the resolution to follow the Lord! Of course, at that time, you will be unable to change any of the decisions you have made. So, you must make the right decisions *now* – realizing that you will reap what you sow (see Galatians 6:7-8).

Study Questions

What does it mean to resolve?

What does Acts 11:23 teach?

1. Why Resolve To Follow The Lord?

What does God’s purpose for creating you have to do with your resolution to follow the Lord?

What does the temporary nature of life, the Judgment Day, and eternity have to do with your resolution to follow the Lord?

What does Jesus' sacrifice have to do with your resolution to follow the Lord?

What does Jesus being "the Way" have to do with your resolution to follow the Lord?

2. Why Resolve Is Needed

Why will resolve always be necessary to live a life of godliness?

How does the war between the flesh and the Spirit impact the need for resolve?

What role does Satan play in your need to resolve to follow the Lord?

3. How To Resolve To Follow The Lord

How can you resolve to follow the Lord? How will Bible examples help you resolve to follow the Lord?

Discuss the lessons you learn from each of the following about resolving to follow the Lord:

- Abraham –

- Joseph –
- Moses –
- The prodigal son –

What does the Jesus' parables of the hidden treasure and the valuable pearl help you understanding about resolving to follow the Lord?

4. Will You Resolve To Follow The Lord?

Will you resolve to follow the Lord? Yes or no?

List some resolutions you need to make in order to follow the Lord: