

New Year's Day!

Bringing in the NEW Year with some OLD postcards!



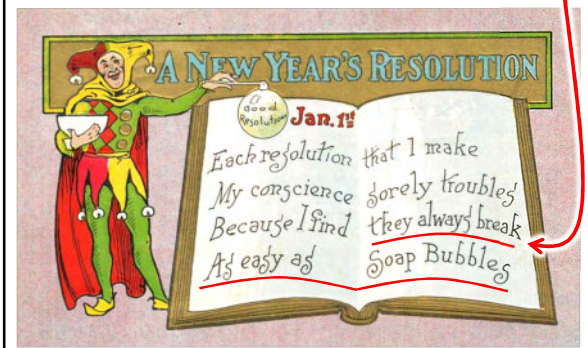
Some people celebrate the New Year by drinking themselves unconscious.



Others celebrate
by making
New Year's
resolutions ...



... which they break "as easy as soap bubbles"!



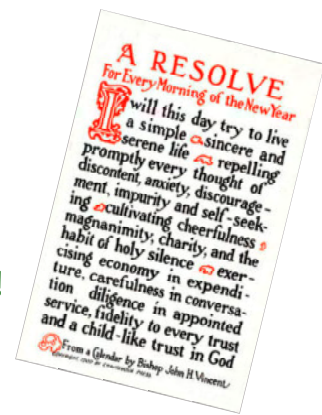
We don't have to be that way!

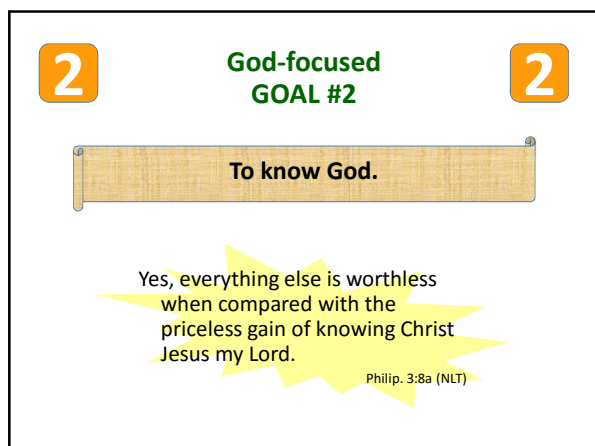
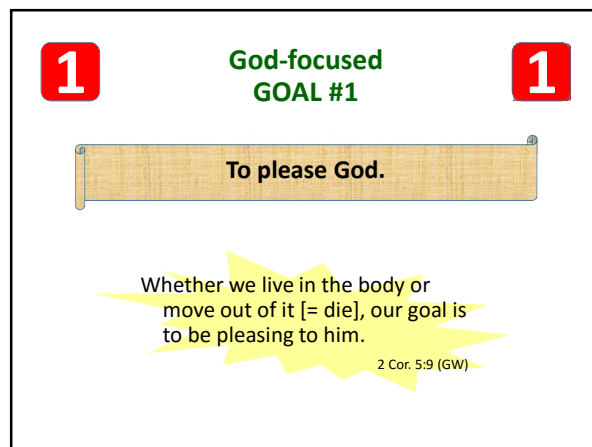


It is good

to

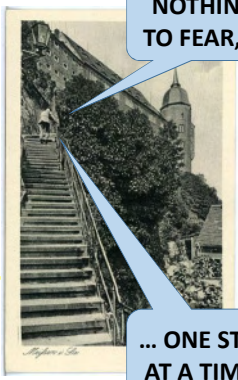
make goals!





SECOND, some PEOPLE-focused goals.

"You must love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:39b (ULB)



1 People-focused GOAL #1

To love one another.

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another.
By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love I for one another."
John 13:34-35 (HCSB)

2 People-focused GOAL #2

To live at peace with others.

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all people.
Romans 12:18 (NET)

3 People-focused GOAL #3

To tell others the good news.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

4 People-focused GOAL #4

To encourage spiritual growth and maturity.

... so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
Ephes. 4:12b-13 (NIV)

ALL of these are good goals.

Since all of them are moral obligations – and part of what it means to "follow Jesus" – it is good to make them our goals!

IN THIS MATTER, BOTH GOD AND WE HAVE A PART!



THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PART:

- 1) Empower God's people, and
- 2) Make them willing to pursue the goals related to LOVE.

For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.

Philip. 2:13 (NLT)



GOD'S SUCCESS RATE IS 100%!

Those who are NOT empowered/willing are NOT his people.

**OUR PART:**

To live by the Spirit's power.

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.

But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:2-3 (NIV)



Those with a genuine hope of salvation do this!



We have a final goal – something we call "heaven."

But WE cannot accomplish this goal.



I CAN'T DO IT!

THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S MY JOB TO DO IT!



GOD



will take care of this final goal.



WE just need to:

- ✓ Trust GOD to get us there.
- ✓ Focus our efforts on LOVE for God and neighbor.

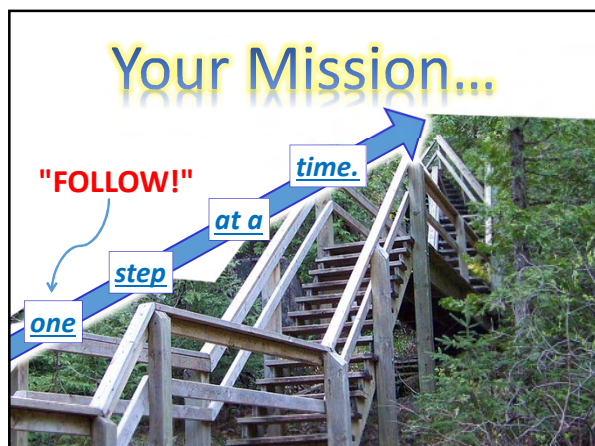
If we do this, everything will be fine.

Your Mission...

"FOLLOW!"

REMEMBER that the Holy Spirit's "mission" is to empower God's people to succeed in following.

SO: If we are God's people, we will be willing to follow the Spirit's leading.



Credits (1)

SUGGESTED GOALS

- Based on information from: Manser, M. H. (2009). *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*. London: Martin Manser.

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Resolved: To grow in the following graces.

If we belong to God, we have the desire and the ability to do these things.
God has not left us powerless! (Philippians 2:13)



God-focused goals

To please God

Romans 14:17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:9; Ephesians 5:8-10, 15-17; Colossians 1:9-12

To know God

John 17:3; Philippians 3:7-11; 2 Peter 3:17-18

To be faithful to God

Matthew 10:21-22; 24:12-13; Mark 13:12-13; John 15:1-8; Philippians 3:10-14;
2 Timothy 4:6-8; Hebrews 12:1-3; Revelation 2:26

People-focused goals

To love one another

Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:25-37; John 13:34-35; 15:9-17;
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; 16:13-14; 1 John 4:7-12

To live at peace with others

Matthew 5:9; Mark 9:50; Romans 12:18; 2 Corinthians 13:11; 1 Thessalonians
4:11-12; James 3:17-18

To tell others the good news

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 20:24; Romans 15:20-21; 1 Corinthians 9:16; 2 Timothy
4:1-5

To encourage spiritual growth and maturity

Matthew 5:48; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 6:14-7:1; 13:11; Ephesians
4:11-16