

January 2012 – Monthly Devotion

Happy New Year! It's true, the New Year is here! Wow, where does the time go? How many times have we said that? How many times have we heard that? This is the time of year that we are nostalgic about last year, excited to look forward to the New Year and we think about what resolutions we are going to make. Is that you? How many new years have you told yourself or a family member, "this year I'm going to....". And we mean it. We have every intention of losing a few pounds, going to the gym, using those envelopes for our budget, cutting coupons and don't forget, reading our Bible every day. We start out great, but then life happens and we lose our momentum and self-discipline. So what do we do, how can we stick to those resolutions we make every year?

I believe if I had the answer to that question I would be rich and famous. Since we all know I'm neither, we can surmise I don't have the answer. What I do have is God's Word that does have all that we need to not only make, but to keep those resolutions. As a school, we are memorizing the "Armor of God", Ephesians 6:10-18. The first verse of that passage says, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Those words hold the key to all that we need to stick to our New Year's resolutions. First and foremost you have to know the Lord, who He is and what He has done for you. His amazing love for each of us is evident in His sacrificial life. God loves you so much that He sent His son to this earth for you, to forgive your sins, to walk with you through life on this earth and to spend all of eternity with you.

The second part of that verse refers to the Lord's mighty power. Over the years, I have learned, and I'm still learning, to trust in His mighty power. That budget you want to get started, taking care of your body by eating right and exercising, or any other resolutions you may have that you haven't been able to accomplish on your own, you can with God's mighty power. By seeking God first, we can tap into that power waiting to help us. When I have trusted Him and leaned not on my own understanding, the Lord has shown up in mighty ways. He has answered my prayers in ways I never could have imagined. The cool thing is, that's what God wants to do for you and me every day.

So if you want to start this New Year different from years past, start it with the Lord. Seek Him first, memorize His word and trust Him with your resolutions for the New Year. I can tell you from personal experience that the outcome will be greater than what you would have accomplished by yourself.

Have a blessed 2012!!



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