

## Resolutions

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by Wayne Goff

Everybody talks about resolutions this time of year, either affirming their need or rejecting the practice as worthless. Indeed, without real determination, New Year's resolutions easily fall by the wayside. The local YMCA is full of people working out in January, but over half of them will disappear by February!

How about you? Are you determined to improve yourself in 2019, or are you satisfied with the status quo? Regardless of the new year, all Christians should make a determined effort to improve. The nature of Christianity is to move **forward, onward** and **upward** — that's determined, real progress.

In the words of the apostle Paul, *"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14). Now look at this statement again:

1. **I have not apprehended my goal** — Paul was not satisfied with the "status quo."
2. **I have forgotten past progress** — Paul was not resting on past laurels.
3. **I reach forward to things ahead** — Paul still had much to accomplish. He set new goals.
4. **I press toward the goal for the prize** — Paul's ultimate goal was eternal life; his smaller goals harmonized to that end.
5. **I press toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus** — Paul knew that his "retirement" was "out of this world" — until then, he was pressing onward and upward.

I believe this is the true attitude of the faithful Christian. He does not grow weary in doing well. He overcomes obstacles in the path of his spiritual walk. He presses onward and upward because eternal life is worth it! Galatians 6:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 5:1-2. He never loses sight of his goal, Hebrews 12:1-2.

There will be "seasons of rest" for every Christian. Every day, week, month and year is different for each one of us. But do not settle for mediocrity. Do not sit down to rest, and resting **die!**

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