

**A daily
resolution
to worship God**

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Because of the stubbornness of our earthly sinful desires which are deeply imprinted in our minds, and the presence of satan, who is encouraging us to follow the way of thinking according to the flesh; the reformation of our souls and the church never ceases. *"For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want."* Gal 5:17

Because our mind has been naturally conditioned by sinful desires as a child of Adam, to seek worldly comfort and spiritual apathy; it is essential that in the name of love our heavenly Father reveal to me my fleshly attachment to the world by painful trials, so that I can be separated from the desires of the flesh, by offering myself up to His pruning for my purification in holiness in the likeness of Christ.

My only desire from this day onward, is to be able to deny myself even more in service and obedience to God, so that the Reigning Lord Jesus Christ can live through my life. I am learning that under the Sovereign providence of God's hand working in all things, everything that happens in the world is incidental to transformation into godliness, and is used by our heavenly Father to train me in the way of the cross of Christ for self-denial in order to put on the life Christ. This is in order that I no longer place my hopes on people or events in earth, but that I hope in Christ alone, and love God with my whole being so that I allow nothing to get in His way or to take His place. And that I love all people as our Lord Jesus loved me, even as I suffering with Him. So that I live, *"according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will."* Eph 1:11

"For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." Rom 8:29

Because faith binds all believers together into one life with Christ, I can allow no private aspiration that are not according to His purpose to cement me into His body as one life because He works all things after the counsel of His will.

This is the will of God: *"Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world,*

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." Rom 12:1-2

When I am anxious or frustrated, or indeed fearful, I am not trusting in God alone, but looking to the world and people for what they cannot provide. So, I need to persevere under His hand who tries me for my good, and not despise the hand of He who does all things perfectly; and when perplexed immediately fall to my knees and worship His majesty who *"causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* Rom 8:28

And while I am painfully pruned for greater fruitfulness, I need to look to Jesus Christ and follow His example to determine how I should live responsibly as a son of God through obedience and singular devotion to God; for I am on my way to heavenly glory.

God has done enough for me to satisfy my every need

Surely it is more than enough motivation for me to surrender to God when I consider the purpose of God to bless me in Christ. But how hard I find the continuing lesson of self-denial in obedience to God to take up my cross in order that Christ might reign in me. And as a result of what the Father has done for me in Christ, I should eagerly welcome the Father's painful discipline in order for me to seek first the kingdom of God; and gratefully receive whatever may be in store for me according to His plan for my transformation in Christ.

And all because the Father has irreversibly drawn me to Christ and His cross through the sacrificial love of His Son, even while I was alienated by disobedience and lost to Him because of living in sin. And now He has forgiven my sins in the sacrifice of Christ. And He has lovingly adopted me into His family to live in eternal fellowship with Christ my Lord and King, along with all those He has predestined to eternal life. Isn't this enough to compel me to adore Him, so that at all times I should worship His Majesty in all I say and do, irregardless of the daily chaos God has ordained in my life and the world that is inevitably approaching His eternal judgement?

So, I gratefully bear witness to His Son who saved me by dying on a cross in my place for the forgiveness of sin, and who now reigns as King over all things. I look to Him for His peace in many trials, being faithful to Him even though I live in a world that doesn't want to know Him and walks according to human determination.

Always in the presence of God

Living Water Resources

Come to the River

'I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.'

Phil 3:8-9

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