



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jere.29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Resolution: "A resolution is a plan for something to be done."

Saturday night Dennis asked me what my New Year's resolutions were and, at that point, I hadn't given it any thought. Thinking back, I can't remember ever making resolutions at the start of a year. I'm not saying I never have, I just don't remember (a common state of mind for me). I've given it some thought though and I guess my philosophy is that we should be in a nearly constant state of change, not just making wishful statements about change.

Some synonyms of "resolution" are: **perseverance, determination, decision, recommendation, declaration**, and several more. In looking at those words, we can conclude that a "resolution" can be a very good thing in our lives...if we follow through on it.

It is really easy to become apathetic, even lazy, about the things we believe about everything; life goes on, we get in ruts, we don't seek challenges, and change becomes scary. Last week we looked at a number of scriptures that talk about "new" things that God wants to do and I think that can speak to resolutions here at the beginning of a new year.

When Maggie was walking us this morning, we noticed in the gutter a nearly full package of cigarettes. Both of us thought it was representative of someone's New Year's resolution to quit smoking. The cost of a pack of cigarettes is nearly \$6.00 nowadays so to throw away a pack is a statement of determination. I have no idea what the statistics would be for the number of people making resolutions and the number of those resolutions that are actually kept but I'm guessing the percentage is pretty low.

We are fired up at the beginning of the year; ready to start fresh and it seems like that is the whole reasoning behind resolutions: the desire to start fresh, to do a new thing, to making changes that will make a difference in our lives. What kind of changes do you want to make in your life this year? Are those changes just wishful thinking or is there some way to put some muscle behind your resolution?

Are the plans/resolutions we make our own ideas or are they the plans the Lord has for each of us? I imagine there are times we make our own plans and sidestep God's plans for us. Maybe His plans are too scary for us while saying we will lose 15 pounds isn't. God's plans for us are "to prosper and not to harm" us and all He asks is that we trust Him to "know" those plans even though we don't. That's the hard part, isn't it: The being out of control; the not knowing, the letting go of our own free will: letting go and letting God.

I think I've decided on a New Year's resolution: to get off the throne every time I realize I'm there and to let God be in charge of the plans He has for me....for starters.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

And many happy resolutions!

Georgia