

Resolutions

Well, it's February already. How are you doing on your New Year's resolutions?

I hate New Year's resolutions, don't you? I've blown two of them already! I am glad that God knows we are weak of resolve, and loves us anyway. One of the reasons that we are weak of resolve is that we are all too frequently resolved on "external" things. God has more "internal" things in mind, with the intent that external things will follow. Fortunately for us, He has done two eternally significant things about this.

First, He sent His Son, Jesus. Our weakness - typically resulting in sin - is what separates us from God. That problem, though insurmountable for us, was solved with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. This solution made the way possible for all who believe, to come to God, despite their sin.

The second thing God did was really quite wonderful too! When Jesus rose and ascended into Heaven, He did as He had said, and sent His Holy Spirit in His place, to do certain things that would help us live this Christian life. Look at one of the things that God does through the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul told his friends in the Ephesus...

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith..." (Eph 3:14, 16-17a).

WOW! According to these verses, we can have the strength and power of Holy Spirit Himself on the inside, rather than just trying to keep our resolutions in our own strength.

That's great news, but in reality, even with that power available to us, it can be difficult to live the way God wants us to live... and the temptation is to get discouraged when we don't do as well as we think we should.

But look at what that same writer, the Apostle Paul, said to his friends in Corinth...

"... we are not discouraged. No, even if our outer man is wearing out, our inner man is being renewed day by day. This light, temporary nature of our suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory, far beyond any comparison, because we do not look for things that can be seen but for things that cannot be seen. For things that can be seen are temporary, but things that cannot be seen are eternal". (2 Cor 4:16-18)... and Amen!!

Let us, as this scripture encourages, work to focus on things internal and eternal. Trying to fight earthly battles with earthly strengths alone, usually leads to failed resolutions. Instead, focusing on things internal and eternal, and with the internal and eternal strength that God gives us in our inner being, we can overcome anything!

Pastor