



Resolve to Change in the New Year!

Sanctification in the Christian Life

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

"The greatest need of my people is my personal holiness."

Robert Murray McCheyne

*"There are simple habits that can help us grow as people and as Christians in the New Year:
study the Bible, pray, read books, sleep more, exercise more,
phone less, online less, tv less, get plugged in at a good church."*

Kevin DeYoung

*When we 'get' Christ by faith, we 'get' everything that is in him
to pardon, liberate, and transform our lives.*

Sinclair Ferguson

*Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help,
I do humbly entreat Him by His grace to enable me to keep these resolutions,
so far as they are agreeable to His will, for Christ's sake."*

Jonathan Edwards (at age 19)

*"The only New Year's resolution I make every year is to collapse more fully on Christ.
I trust in his resolve, not mine."*

Jack Miller

I. The Universal Need of Change

The Need for Change is Evident All Around Us

- A. Every Person in every Place
- B. Every Circumstance
- C. Every Nook and Cranny of the world!

Genesis 6:5-6

Romans 7:21

II. A Particular Call to Change

God commands His People to become more and more like Himself

- A. Be Holy (as YHWH is Holy) (**1 Peter 1:14-15**)
- B. Be Different (Not conform to the World) (**Romans 12:2**)
- C. Be like Christ (**Romans 8:29**)

III. Our Personal Hope for Change

It is God Himself at Work in You

- A. He Promised to Change His People (**Ezekiel 36:24-28**)
- B. He has Begun that Work in His People (**Ephesians 3:20**)
- C. He Promises to Finish what He Starts (**Philippians 1:4-6**)

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

23 *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless* at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and *he will do it.*

1 Peter 1:14-15

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 8:29

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

2 Corinthians 3:18

We all.....are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Ezekiel 36:24-28

24 "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.* 28 Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

Ephesians 3:20

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, *according to his power that is at work within us....*

Philippians 1:4-6

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, *that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*