

“Resolutions for New Year”

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James 4:13-17
December 31, 2023.
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It is our custom at the end of the year to review our lives and set goals and resolutions for the New Year. Many strive to truly fulfill and live according to their stated purposes. Many others - the most - tend to fall by the wayside. His good intentions remained only good intentions. But someone says - and perhaps they say it right - that the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

The children of God must be men and women of our word. Jesus taught us to say “Yes” when it is yes, and to say “No” when it is no. Along these lines, it is necessary when defining our purposes for the coming year, to take them seriously. And make them a true commitment.

That is why today I want to invite you to set some resolutions that have to do with our spiritual life, with our commitment to the church and, even more importantly, with our relationship with God.

In our passage, James invites us to establish at least three spiritual resolutions for our Christian life.

HAVE A DAILY DEDICATED LIFE (4:13-14). The expression Let's go now! What Santiago uses at the beginning is to draw more attention from the readers to him. Santiago refers to people who make plans for the following year. They think of going to such and such a city and doing business there for a whole year and making a good profit.

There is nothing wrong with making plans. On the contrary, it is very good to set goals in all areas of life: Individual, family, work, material, physical, etc. James is not saying it is bad; But he reminds them that they must keep in mind at least two things:

1. That we do not know what will be tomorrow and

2. That our life is like a fog that appears and then disappears.

Some of the sacred writers tell us about the brevity of our life: The psalmist tells us “A man is like grass; He flourishes like the flower of the field” (Psalm 103:15). So, if we do not have the security of life and we do not know what tomorrow will be like, we only have one decision to make: Live each day at a time.

In other words, what we think we are, let us be today; What we plan to do, let's do it today. The wisest man in the world wrote: “Do not say to your neighbor, Go and return, and tomorrow I will give it to you, When you have something with you to give him” (Proverbs 3:28). That is, if you are going to be charitable, don't leave it for tomorrow. Likewise, if today you are not living for the Lord, you must start today. If you are outside of God's will, you must put yourself inside of God's will today. If you are not serving the Lord, then you must begin serving Him today.

DECIDE TO HAVE A DIVINELY DIRECTED LIFE (4:15-16) Two teachings emerge here: that with humility let the Lord govern our lives and, to put aside our pride.

James is inviting us to decide that our lives be directed by the Lord. May we not forget that all our future plans depend on HIM and his perfect will. Above our starting point and our arrival point, there is the work of the hand of God. HE is the one who orders and sets the limits.

Santiago reminds us that it is incorrect to presume that we are the masters of our destiny and to boast about everything we are going to do as if nothing could happen that is out of our control. The simple truth is this, God is the only one on whom it depends if we will be here in a year, or even one more day. God is the only one who determines the existence and duration of life. God directs the events of our lives. God not only controls the “when”, HE also controls the “what”. That is to say, he not only prescribes how long we will have to live, but also what will happen during our existence.

Therefore, a spiritual determination we should make for the new year is this: "Lord, I want to let you direct my life." That is to say: "Jesus, I want you to be the Lord of my life."

DECIDE TO HAVE A DILIGENTLY MASTERED LIFE (4:17). We must be aware and careful about sin in our lives. We must decide to dominate sin and not allow sin to dominate us. James says that sin is not only doing something bad, but also not doing something that is good. When we know we should be in church on Sundays and we are not, it is a sin. When we know we have to give our tithes and we don't, it is sin. When we know we should testify for Christ and we never do, it is sin. The worst thing about sin is not so much the evil that is done, but that, having the opportunity to do good, we choose not to do them.

**May the Lord direct our hearts to be today everything we should be and do everything we should do; to allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives and to do everything that is good and pleasing to the Lord! So be it! Amen!