

## The Resolute Christian

With the start of a new year, many people will make New Year's resolutions, seeking to improve themselves in some way (44%), to lose weight (32%), to solve financial issues (42%), or to have better relationships (23%). Of these, only 9% will feel they succeeded by the end of the year.<sup>1</sup> Apparently, those making resolutions is not very...well...resolute. So, what does it mean to be "resolute"? Google defines resolute as "...admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering." Very positive traits for anybody to possess. But what should a resolute Christian look like? One of our dear friends, author Karen Ingle, would say that a resolute Christian is one who lives toward a legacy.<sup>2</sup> A word that comes to mind here is "strive," in the Greek "agōnizomai," meaning to agonize over, to fight, to struggle, or to labor diligently with a goal in mind. Paul uses the word in 1 Timothy 6:12:

*<sup>12</sup> Fight ("agōnizomai") the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

According to Karen, the goal is the legacy we leave behind. And what does that legacy look like? Paul says it is the "...good confession in the presence of many witnesses." That is the community legacy. And what legacy should we be living toward personally? The ultimate goal is to live life fully in Christ.

*Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:13-14 (ESV)***

This then should be our only, real resolution for 2018, to do those things that move us toward greater intimacy with God in Christ Jesus. Through healthy disciplines of work and rest, prayer and study, fellowship and solitude, Sabbath and sabbaticals, we can get to the end of 2018 and say as Paul says in 2 Timothy 4:7 ...

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

As 2018 gets off to a start, it is not a bad idea to set some general goals, but it is most important to keep our legacy in mind as we move forward. It is our desire to be of service to you in way that will help you live toward a legacy in Christ. May 2018 be a year of blessings and growth.

In Christ,

Kelley Johnson  
NCD Pastoral Care

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statisticbrain.com/new-years-resolution-statistics/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://kareningleblog.wordpress.com/2017/12/30/living-toward-legacy-gift-you-leave-behind/#more-810>