

## Making Resolutions God's Way

Ever have a meeting with a tough customer or supplier or troublesome employee. You have a history with this person. You know them and they know you. You each have the keys to the others "buttons" panel. You know your buttons very well and maybe some of theirs. You know what will you make you angry or impatient or give them the silent treatment. They may know this as well. Maybe you will even politely or impolitely bludgeon your way to your predetermined outcome.

Let's get real for a moment. This may be great behavior in the "world" but how about in the "Kingdom!" How can we gracefully engage people in these situations? How can we do it the God's Way?

While there are many places we can go to in Scripture for guidance, I'd like you to consider two:

1. First and most important in any matter is seeking grace for the matter. In 2 Corinthians 9:8, we are reminded: "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."
2. Let's add to that a little practical application guidance. In the first chapter of Daniel, we are told the story of Daniel and other captured youths being trained in the Babylonian ways. The Scripture says, "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself. Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the official."

I learned that to "resolve" means to decide in advance on a course of action and actually commit and follow it. This is what Daniel did. He decided in advance not to defile himself and committed and followed this course of action.

He decided in advance what his behavior would be and he took action by asking permission to not do what he knew was wrong. The next verse says that God granted him favor and compassion in the sight of the commander. The bottom line is that Daniel was firm in his commitment to do the right thing.

I had occasion to use the Daniel passage recently. I had two situations on consecutive days - the first was personal and the second was business. Having been in these situations before, I knew the people and situations, the traps of the enemy and my personal weaknesses. I just didn't want to go through them and have to deal with my internal feelings and behavior. I was tired of being me in "another" one of these situations and felt sorry for poor me that had to go through them again.

Then the Lord illumined my mind with these Scriptures. I could either go through the "same-old-same-old" or swath a new path in my life. I decided to choose Daniel's course of action. Now don't get me wrong! I used to pray in these situations before, but never took concrete steps to safeguard my motives and behavior.

This time I resolved to make some resolutions in both situations. I started by making some notes on what I was not going to do:

- I wasn't going to get angry.
- I wasn't going to have a fixed predetermined outcome. I would have a loose idea of what I wanted but was going to try to be as flexible as I could.
- I wasn't going to play games or posture.

That seemed pretty good, but then I received further illumination. Why just make a list of what I was not going to do. How about making a list of things I would do. I then jotted down the following:

- To be as patient and understanding as I could.
- To seek wisdom.



- To be a good listener and try to see things from their side and not to just give lip service.
- I prayed that God would bless the other person abundantly.
- I prayed that we would both grow from the situation.
- I prayed that God would grant a just outcome.

Going into both of these situations I felt peaceful, a little anxious, but most of all "clean" because I knew I was trying to be in the Lord's will. It didn't mean that everything I thought was right or that I had all the answers, but just that I was trying to be sure my motives were right, asking for grace I needed and to be equipped with the virtues I needed.

Both situations turned out to be more than I could have asked for, not because of the worldly outcome but because I felt clean going in and clean coming out. I felt I was doing it God's way.

I'm now praying this will become a staple in my relationships. It has caused me to really think about relationships on a more spiritual level. I'm praying that it will start to become more second nature for me to prepare in this manner by making these resolutions.

By asking for grace and remembering Daniel's story, you may find that in the heat of the battle, these resolutions will now serve as an anchor point and you are much less likely to drift away from those things you hold dear.

May God continue to bless you as you seek to do it His way this day!

---

### **Christian Business Owners Fellowship**

841 Hamlet Lane, A-2, Westlake, OH 44145  
440.333.1900 [www.christianbusinessowners.net](http://www.christianbusinessowners.net)

1/11/2010