

GOD'S RESOLUTION

"I chose you before I formed you in the womb, I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5)

REFLECTION

We often feel prompted to make resolutions for the New Year. Apparently, the 3 most popular resolutions are firstly, to lose weight and look good. Secondly, to become a better person by donating time and things to those in need. Thirdly, to resolve to be happy and live life to the fullest. All these three would lead people to either adopt new routines in life, accomplish altruistic or humanitarian acts, pursue different interests or develop a skill for the year. But just as resolutions are commonly made at the start of the year, it is also easy for resolutions to be broken in the course of time. The common reason is human weakness and failing. We resist change when it cost us too much time and effort. If we don't see the immediate results our interest wanes and we abandon our resolutions.

Unlike us in our approach to making and keeping resolutions for every new year God has made an irrevocable resolution to us through His Word since the beginning of time. God has *chosen* us. We are not here by accident or by half-hearted hasty decisions. God made each of us uniquely through His deliberate divine act and with loving and thoughtful consideration (John 1:13). God has *set us apart* for Himself as unique individuals with different callings and gifts, so that we may offer ourselves to God's purpose, mission and service at the appropriate time (1 Cor. 12:4-6). This liberates us to be live happy lives as He has intended for us. God also purposed for us to grow in Him and, therefore, has *appointed us* to be His Hands and Feet in a broken world. God has purposed since before the creation of the world that we be sent into every fabric of society with the love and light of Christ so as to bear fruit for Him (John 15:6). If there is one resolution to make this year, would you then consider being part of God's resolution?

PRAYER

Father God, You have resolved since the beginning of time to set us apart and to appoint us as instruments of Your blessing for the nations. Move us to follow through in cooperating with You in all You have purposed and prepared for us. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Give thanks for the past and present new year. Pray for all to be able to see God's goodness in the year that has passed despite the disruptions of the pandemic. Pray for people to have a growing trust in the God's goodness and grace, to look back and learn that God always desire to do good for His children.
- Pray for a deep sense of gratitude and thanksgiving to flow from the hearts and mouths of believers that they may see beyond the difficulties and challenges faced and experience the depths of God's grace.
- Thank God for non-government agencies and religious organizations that look out for the poor and needy, feed the hungry and bring healing to the sick. Pray for all the hard work that go into setting up helplines, help counters and donation collection and distribution points. May the Lord use the resident committees, churches, food assistance groups, charities to assist needy people to get the needful items.
- Pray for believers to know God's calling for their lives. Pray that they may also discover their God-given gifts and use them to serve Him passionately. Pray that believers would earnestly seek after God to discern and live lives that are in line with His purposes and will. Pray for inner resolve to do away with superficial desire to look good and do good to be noticed.
- Pray against the spirit of comparison and envy; that believers will celebrate and appreciate each other's uniqueness and gifts for the good of the community and church. Pray for more collaborative effort in churches and work places, uniting them in vision, purpose and effort.
- Pray for those with special needs. Pray for the organizations that assist to teach and train people with special needs. Pray for the Enabling Village and Project Dignity that seek to restore dignity to the "differently-abled" and disadvantaged through vocation with passion.

*"Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."
(2 Peter 1:4)*

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,
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