

Trumpet Sounds

Rebecca O'Connor

Editor: Dennis O'Connor

ONE DAY AT A TIME

Matt 6:34 *Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

A new year brings fresh thoughts of change for the better. We make resolutions in hopes of leaving the past failures behind us.

I pondered all these things in my closet time when Matt 6:34 came to mind. I cannot make a resolution for more than the current day in which I am living and breathing. I have no idea what a day will bring, and I cannot predict what I will need to draw from my character and spirit.

What situations we face tomorrow must first be resolved in our spirit today. If we are resolved today that God is God and more than enough to take care of us today, then He is the same when the unexpected comes.

In my youth I made resolutions without being resolved in who God was or what He could or would do. I made resolutions of feats to accomplish in becoming a better me.

I looked at some of the top resolutions people make in general at the beginning of each new year:

- ◇ Lose weight, eat better
- ◇ Exercise, take care of body
- ◇ Quit smoking
- ◇ Quit drinking
- ◇ Get out of debt
- ◇ Simplify life
- ◇ Spend more family time
- ◇ Complain less
- ◇ Help others, be kinder

This is by no means exhaustive but relative to the person making them.

I see that making resolutions is no different than picking up lock, stock and barrel and moving away from everything to a new location to start over again. The only problem with this idea is that the old person moves to a new local to repeat the life from which they came.

A resolution is a plan or decision, yet being resolved is living in the solution one day at a time.

In times of trauma or turmoil people make vows to God: "If you _____, I will promise to _____!" You fill in the blanks. Most vows are broken shortly

after the situation has been resolved. We have a short attention span in keeping those vows.

Matt 5:34-37 *But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: 35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. 36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. 37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*

It is not bad to make a good plan for ourselves, but the realization is to grow from our mistakes that we learn, forgive ourselves when we fail and get up, dust off and get back to living just one day at a time.

I always pray over the close of one year and the beginning of the next. I see it as a rolodex of all accumulated thought patterns. Before the start of a new year there are bound to be some old thoughts that made for poor patterns that we can and should eliminate as well as patterns handed down from our parents. Christians have

many Scriptures in the rolodex that we use often along with some blank cards that more Scriptures need adding.

This is the first and best Scripture to begin and judge all that is within our rolodex:

Phil 4:8-9 *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

It is time to examine old thoughts. Anything that does not fit this rule of thumb needs cleaning out to start fresh again.



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THE WITNESS

Acts 4:20 *For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*

This Scripture is our License to minister the Gospel. We are each a testament of the Word of God. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are testaments of what they saw and heard. Matthew and John heard out of the mouth of Jesus. Mark was a second generation Christian who followed Peter. Luke was a Gentile Christian who followed Paul. Paul was a testament of Jesus through his experience of bumping into Jesus on his way to Damascus and gaining a truer vision in the company of Ananias and the Holy Spirit.

What qualified them is the fact that they could see and hear. In other words, they were witnesses of their experience in the Lord. Some walked with Jesus physically and gave historical witness, while others spiritually, yet all walking with Jesus.

John 14:25-26 *These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. 26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

In all of this, there is the case of Helen Keller who could neither see nor hear, yet through spiritual contact of the Holy Spirit became a miraculous witness: *"I thank God for my handicaps for, through them, I have found myself, my work, and my God."* In one of her letters, Helen told Bishop Brooks that she had always known about God, even before she had any words. Even before she could call God anything, she knew God was there. She did not know what it was. God had no name for her—nothing had a name for her for she had no concept of a name for anything. However, in that darkness and isolation she knew she was not alone. Someone was with her and she felt loved. When she received the gift of language and heard about God, she said she already knew. In this respect we, who have the blessing of sight and sound, must still see and hear from within our spirit.

Our witness is a matter of the heart unique to each person from our relationship with and in the Word of God.

From our relationship we develop faith, which at first is very childlike in that it simply believes without sight or sound. Nothing physical substantiates it. It is an

honest trust in the invisible that becomes...seen first without sight; knowing without having heard it.

Each of us is and has a witness to give. It does not have to be dramatic or like any other person's testimony to touch another heart.

Looking again at Matthew, Mark, Luke and John:

Matthew saw Jesus from a Jewish perspective as The Son of Man meaning as a mortally born Savior and well versed. As a tax collector he understood political corruption when documenting the soldiers being offered money to lie about the body being stolen from the tomb.

Mark: This is a supercharged, fast paced Gospel. Mark stayed with Peter in prison and used as Peter's interpreter. As an interpreter, Mark wrote down the observations and memories of Peter. You can see this Gospel reflects Peter's interest in spreading the gospel among the Gentiles.

Luke: Of all the gospels, *Luke* seems to have the greatest concern for the poor. Luke left his position as a physician to travel with Paul. Luke interviewed many eye witnesses to all that Jesus had done including apostles and teachers as you can read in the opening of his first chapter. One of the most interesting interviews must have been with Mary who gave the best account of a Saviors birth. Paul mentions about 500 witnesses of Jesus before and during His crucifixion and appearances after His resurrection, setting Luke in line for many interviews.

John: It is in this, the last New Testament Gospel to be written, that Jesus is portrayed as divine and pre-existing. You cannot read this gospel without feeling the special bond of love John has with Jesus. John is writing from his personal loving relationship as the one disciple who did not leave Jesus. Jesus also entrusted His mother to John for safe keeping. John may have had the best insight to God's love in Christ for he was able to receive it personally. Without conceit yet being confident, he knew he was beloved...as we all should have the grace to receive, since it was given by Grace.

Each of these Gospel writers saw Jesus in their own light. Mark saw Him as the son of man. Matthew and Luke saw Jesus as the Son of God. John saw Him as God in person.

We are many different and unique people with varied experiences. Those terrible times and glorious times, through happiness and sorrow speak of God's unfailing love in our witness.

We may be a little people, through which God can do big and amazing things. Sometimes the most amazing witness can be found in the strangest ways just by our being obedient to the nudge of the Holy Spirit. My favorite story is of a dear friend and prayer warrior. She was at a prayer meeting where rather quiet prayers were being prayed. In the stillness she sensed the Holy Spirit nudging her to do something that made no sense. She had noticed a tambourine on the top of a tall cabinet at some point. It was nothing that grabbed her attention any more than a picture on the wall, until the Holy Spirit nudged her to get it off the cabinet and shake it. All she perceived in the spirit was to get it and shake it. Can you imagine anything sillier to do for no reasonable understanding in a room full of quiet, reverent prayers? The nudging did not stop, so she quietly got up from her seat and without giving an explanation got the tambourine and shook it fiercely, then set it back on the top of the cabinet and sat back down. At the end of the meeting she was approached by a man who told her that he was questioning whether God was actually hearing any of their prayers or if there even was a God to hear them. So his prayer was simple. He prayed that if God was really listening to his prayer he wanted an unusual "something" to happen that would be a very noticeable sign from God. It was just after he silently prayed that in his mind that my friend went over and took the tambourine and shook it. He was convinced that God was not only real but there with him hearing his every thought. She was a little person doing a big thing in that man's life.

When my husband had a stroke, our grass got really high, but some dear Christian servants came without being asked and cut it. Other people gave money for gas and food for my trips to the hospital every day. So many people kept us both in prayer, and we felt every one of them. I thank God for all the little people who have no limelight over them, but serve the Lord in kindness and giving. These are the many witnesses of which we cannot do without in this world today and speak so loudly of a very real God.

God, grant us wisdom and discernment to position ourselves for safety, protection and prosperity for the coming new season. Show us each the pathway to our destiny that we will walk toward victory and accomplish our course finishing well. Give us strength to endure when those around us choose poorly.

I pray for the leadership of the nations to come into righteousness for the good of the people. I pray for the church to stand together as one mighty force standing in the gap and building up the hedge for the land.

AMEN

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WORD FOR 2019

In prayer, at the beginning of this new year, I saw in my spirit a woman. She had no face because she was many people, young and old, male and female. I saw that in her was a womb with a seed as if pregnant. The seed was hope and that hope was relative to the person who was pregnant.

There was a warning for those pregnant with hope to treat their spirit and body as they should considering the pregnancy. You are entering a crucial nine month period of preparation for the delivery of that hope birthing and manifesting. Consider the health of hope dependent on how you treat yourself. If we treat ourselves with junk our hope will respond by mal-forming and not resembling what we had hoped. Pray to understand more fully what you need to do in preparing for this birth.

The vision then went to the nations as if each nation was a womb. In this womb I saw twins. They were not identical for one was good and the other evil. I clearly

understood that only one would be born alive; the other would die. (I believed that this meant one would take the lead of the country and the other would not.) One only would be birthed and become the leader of that nation whether good or evil.

Consider that people were created from the dirt of the ground or land. The people are the land. Just as the church is not a building but a people, so it is with the land being the people. We are connected and according to the people the land responds: *Lev 18:24-28 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: 25 And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants. 26 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you: 27(For all these abominations have the men of the land done,*

which were before you, and the land is defiled;) 28 That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you.

The earth responds to its people. If the people are in strife, division and violence the earth shakes and quakes with it. Even as the earth's plates under the ocean strive and shake and the ocean in turn responds with tsunamis of destruction. I then got the phrase: Shake, Rattle and Roll...a whole lot of shaking going on!

Ezek 14:20 Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

Each of these men faced some kind of disaster, whether flood, governmental persecution and judgment, or disease, death and poverty. Yet each one, though they were in it, were saved through it, because they positioned themselves with God. Find your position and pray.