

## New Year's Resolutions?

January is the time for New Year's Resolutions! You know the same ones every year – lose 10 pounds, go to the gym three times a week, put \$100 a month into savings. You start them with such great enthusiasm and two weeks later you have already lost interest! I quit making resolutions many years ago when I chose to let God direct my new year.

I think to myself, what does God want me to do? What does He want me to change? In Micah 6:8 scripture says, *“He has told you, O (wo)man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”* A great place to start. God tells us exactly what He wants from each of His followers. Is this where I need to change and grow?

Then in Galatians 5:22 we read, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”* Where in the Spirit's fruit am I lacking? It's usually easy to discern what is missing. Non-Christ-like behaviors are usually glaring omissions, even to myself!

In Matthew 28:19 tells us, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* What am I doing to spread the Gospel message of God's sacrifice and redemption, His gracious love, to others? Am I doing all that?

When I get together with friends, do I exemplify Colossians 3:15-17? *“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”* Or do others wonder about my speech and actions, concerned for my eternal soul? Is this where my changes need to be made?

As a Lutheran Woman in Mission, I am to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. Am I doing all of this to the best of my God-given abilities?

I have a lot to think about, and I bet you do, too. Only prayer and contemplation will answer the questions. Once our lives tell the world what God wants told, the rest will be easy. When you know you are following God's directions, you know you can do anything. And remember in all you do, *Serve the Lord with gladness!*

Thank you for reading. I would love to hear your thoughts, and what you might like to read about in future *Christian Life Lines*. Like you, my life is busy, but never too busy for a friend. Feel free to contact me at [mrsknq1948@gmail.com](mailto:mrsknq1948@gmail.com). I love all of you.

Blessed January,

*Cathey*