

RESOLUTIONS FOR LIFE
by Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

Jonathan Edwards was a great and useful man of God. He is best known for his sermon *"Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God."* The following resolutions are those he made for himself in his youth. He did his best to live by them faithfully. They are worth studying. Anyone who will adopt and follow them will greatly increase his or her usefulness for the glory of God.

"Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat Him, by His grace, to enable me to keep these Resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to His will, for Christ's sake. [I will] remember to read over these Resolutions once a week."

- 1. Resolved, That I will do whatsoever I think to be most to the glory of God, and my own good, profit, and pleasure, in the whole of my duration; without any consideration of the time, whether now, or never so many myriads of ages hence.**

1 Corinthians 10:31—"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

- 2. Resolved, to do whatever I think to be my duty, and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general.**

Matthew 7:12—"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

Mark 12:28-31—"28And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? 29And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. 31And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

Romans 13:8-10

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- 3. Resolved, Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.**

Ephesians 5:16—"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Colossians 4:5—"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

- 4. Resolved, To live with all my might, while I do live.**

Colossians 3:23—"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"

Psalms 103:1—"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

Ecclesiastes 9:10—"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

- 5. Resolved, Never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.**

Romans 13:11-14

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

- 6. Resolved, Never to do anything out of revenge.**

Romans 12:17—"Recompense to no man evil for evil."

Romans 12:19—"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

- 7. Resolved, Never to speak evil of any one, so that it shall tend to his dishonor, more or less, upon no account except for some real good.**

Proverbs 24:28-29—"Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips. 29Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work."

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Ephesians 4:31—“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:”

- 8. Resolved, To study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly, and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive, myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.**

Psalm 19:7-11

1 Peter 2:2—“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

2 Timothy 2:15—“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

- 9. Resolved, Never to count that a prayer, nor to let that pass as a prayer, nor that as a petition of a prayer, which is so made, that I cannot hope that God will answer it; nor that as a confession which I cannot hope God will accept.**

James 4:1-3—“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

1 John 1:9—“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- 10. Resolved, To ask myself, at the end of every day, week, month, and year, wherein I could possibly, in any respect, have done better.**

Psalm 26:2—“Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.”

Psalm 119:59—“I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.”

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Psalm 139:23-24—“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Lamentations 3:40—“40Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.”

1 John 3:20-21—“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.”

- 11. Resolved, Never to give over, nor in the least to slacken, my fight with my corruptions, however unsuccessful I may be.**
(Philippians 3:7-16; Ephesians 6:10ff; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

- 12. Resolved, After afflictions, to inquire, what I am the better for them; what good I have got by them, and what I might have got by them.**

Psalm 119:67—“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.”

Psalm 119:71—“It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.”

Psalm 119:75—“I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.”

2 Chronicles 33:9-13

- 13. Resolved, Always to do that which I shall wish I had done when I see others do it.**

1 Timothy 4:12—“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-9

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14. Resolved, Let there be something of benevolence in all that I speak.

1 Corinthians 16:14—“Let all your things be done with charity.”

Colossians 3:14—“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

Colossians 4:6—“Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

1 Peter 4:8—“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”

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