



New Year's Resolutions

Jonathan Edwards, 1723

Being sensible that I am unable to 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.

- #1. Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory and *my own good, profit and pleasure...*
- #22. Resolved, to endeavor *to obtain for myself such happiness, in the other world, as I possible can, with all the power might, vigor, yea violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert.*



New Year's Resolutions

Jonathan Edwards was a man committed to the pursuit of happiness in this life and the next

2 very different ways of interpreting this statement based on 2 polar opposite visions of reality

- I am the center of reality...happiness is glorifying me
- God is the center of all reality

...Our joy/happiness directly relates to knowing God's glory and bringing Him glory.

#1. Resolved, that *I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory* and my own good, profit and pleasure...



Toward the Tithe & Beyond

Pursuing your happiness now & forever involves glorifying God with your financial resources

JOY!!!

God is talking with us about our joy that comes from glorifying Him as we release money out of our hands into the cause of Christ and His kingdom

6 Biblical Reasons to Tithe



Toward the Tithe & Beyond

#1. Tithing honors an Old Testament principle of how God provided for the ministers he called & the expenses of their ministry

Numbers 18:20-21 20 The LORD said to Aaron, "You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites. 21 **"I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting.**

Is there any biblical evidence that this principle continues in the NT?

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 13 Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar?

14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel



Toward the Tithe & Beyond

#2. When we release a tenth of our income & give it over to the ministry & mission of Christ in the world, we honor the Creator rights of God who owns everything

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains; the world, and those who dwell in it

Since the tithe is first about OWNERSHIP...

It is basically about LIFESTYLE



Toward the Tithe & Beyond

#3. Giving away a tenth of our income to the mission & ministry of Christ is an antidote to covetousness

Luke 12:15

Beware, and be on your guard against every form of covetousness (greed).

Every time we give we are pressed with the question, “Who is the center of my reality”...

...What do I desire most: the advancement of the glory of God in Jesus, or 10% more security, comfort, fun???

Our giving is an indicator of how well our heart is guarding against covetousness... “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Luke 12:34



Toward the Tithe & Beyond

#4. When we move toward the tithe & beyond it puts a governor on every-expanding spending

Spending expands to fill income...

...Spending begets spending

Since this is true, how shall we limit this inevitable expansion???

The answer: As our income grows, we move beyond the tithe

Eg. John Wesley



Toward the Tithe & Beyond

#5. Going toward the tithe & beyond is God's way of bringing about many good works for His glory

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 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.*

“you will abound”...your heart will increasingly experience the freedom to joyfully sow generously so as to bring glory to God with fruitful works of caring, mercy, ministry (also, I Timothy 6:17-19)



Toward the Tithe & Beyond

6. Going toward the tithe & beyond will prove & strengthen your faith in God's better promises

There is a correlation between faith in the promises of God and peace of mind in giving away what we think we need.

II Corinthians 9:7-8

7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 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. (Hebrews 13:5, *Philippians 4:19-20*)

Malachi 3:10 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. *Test me in this*," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven *and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.* (cf. Luke 6:38)



Toward the Tithe & Beyond

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 Out of the most severe trial, their *overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity*. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

There is only one thing that can grow this type of joyous, generous, trusting heart....the glory of God in Christ

II Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

**Being transformed as you see & savor the glory of the
incarnational poverty of the eternally wealthy God**

