

"No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse." Matthew 9:16 KJV



New Year's Eve is a time of change. We promise ourselves we will begin new things and stop old ones. Most resolutions fail, because they are born of carnal desire. Self is a ruthless master! *"The eyes of man are never satisfied."* Resolutions fail, because we are simply patching an old garment, *"the lust of the flesh."* We don't seek God for a new heart and attitude. *"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."* Meditation and study of God's Word will change your desires. *"If any man be in Christ, he is a NEW creature."* We can only be *"IN CHRIST"* through faith, trusting obedience in God's Word. Jesus is the *"Word made flesh,"* but we must believe and trust God's Word to find Him. God is omnipresent, everywhere at once, but He is only revealed to men through His Word. It is when you make the effort to *"hear"* God through study and meditation that you will KNOW God. Jesus said, *"Without me, ye can do nothing. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."* Paul wrote, *"I can do all thing through Christ which strengtheneth me. For it is God which worketh in you BOTH to will AND to do of His good pleasure."* Without Truth, human effort is useless and doomed to failure. Exchange your filthy rags of desire for the royal robes of righteousness through faith. Good works don't bring faith, but true faith will produce good works, because it is born out of love not duty. What is it that occupies a lover's thoughts? What obsession drives every waking moment? What is their reason for living? *"We love Him, because He first loved us. God commendeth His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners (and not yet born) Christ died for us."* If we allow thoughts and deeds contrary to Truth, we continue to wear the old rags. Thought is a predetermined choice; the result of that with which you involve yourself. If all you do is please yourself, your thoughts will be of self. You must change your stimulus to change your thoughts and thereby your desires and habits. Nothing is new until God makes it new. I can't love, laugh, or live successfully unless God's Word is my #1 priority! Ask for new raiment. *"Ask and ye shall receive."* Believers sometimes think they no longer need mercy, grace, and strength for daily tasks. Nothing could be further from the Truth. *"Give us this day our daily bread."* Your daily needs will only be supplied if you ask, but fear not, *"your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask."* Be quick to seek forgiveness and quick to forgive. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* If help is needed, *"come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* The conduit of supply is Christ, God's Word. Ignore Truth, and you'll be helpless!

Don't mend the old, the ragged torn,
Let righteousness thy life adorn,
Our Lord with cruel crown of thorns,
Blood-bought the raiment to be worn. -CGP

You only need one resolution. *"Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."* This done, all else will fall into place. *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and ALL these things shall be added unto you."* Why mend filthy rags when you can have brand new raiment?

"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."
Romans 13:14 KJV