

20181230 Weaned or Weenie Winner or Whiner

As a new year approaches people often think in terms of making new years resolutions.

Can be- time of renewal/recommitment/reflection.

What are your new years resolutions?

I have an unspoken resolution-next year- to make a new start on old habits- why rock the boat.

Actually one of my new years resolution is to ... exercise ... my right to eat more.

For-techie-my new years resolution is 1024 x 768

There is something significant to God about ...

>times

>seasons

>new beginnings/starts in life

God set sun/moon in place to mark times and seasons- He created days, months, years.

There is a place to look forward to a new season.

First- I want to encourage those who- currently in a difficult season/struggle w/hope for- future.

Regardless of how long/difficult a season is ...

Galatians 6.9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

To reap- benefits of- current season we must continue to do good/persevere/not grow weary.

As Paul says- **forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead** (Phil 3.13).

Lamentations- says the loving kindness and compassions of God are new every morning.

If there is an area of your life in which you have no hope- you are believing a lie about ...

God, yourself, others, your circumstances.

Romans 15.13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is important to keep our focus on the goodness of God and not the difficulties we are facing. Instead of making resolutions we might ask God to show us what He wants to do in 2019 ...

>in us, (what does God want to change)

>for us, (God wants to work for us) and

>through us? (be a conduit of living water)

All three of these areas are important to God.

To help us look into the new year- look at ...

Psalm 131.1–3 (NASB95)

¹O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; Nor do I involve myself in great matters, Or in things too difficult for me.

²Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned child rests against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me.

³ O Israel, hope in the Lord From this time forth and forever.

V1

Psalm 131.1 (Passion Bible) ... I am content to not pursue matters that are over my head- such as your complex mysteries and wonders- that I am not yet ready to understand.

First- David is NOT saying God is against us using our minds, rational thought, or reason. God is the God of reality/facts/science/history.

Bill Maher- TV personality we should all look to for spiritual guidance, says ...

>a rational person with a rational mind would reject religion

>you cannot be religious and be rational.

Bill Maher's conclusions are irrational- he does not understand God/His Word/the eternal.

Eternity is the cornerstone of all logic and reason. When we lose sight of eternity we come to conclusions that are temporary or completely false and bring death and not life. Bill Johnson

Reason and faith are not at odds with each other. Some say faith is a leap into the dark when in reality it is a step into the Light of God.

Romans 12.2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

To have a proper perspective on the issues of life, our minds must be renewed by God's truth.

When we approach God w/unrenewed mind we are in danger of creating a God- looks like us- a God that we shape in our image.

Second- if I am only willing to obey God with what I understand I am limiting God in my life.

Not understanding is okay, but to restrict our walk of faith to what we understand is not okay.

We do not believe because we understand, we understand because we believe- revelation.

When we just order our lives around what we understand we subject God to our judgments.

God is looking for obedience even if
circumstances contradict what we understand.

Matthew 7.7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

This is how we gain revelation beyond intellectual understanding- we ask, seek, knock.

If- not willing to pursue God by- asking, seeking, knocking- we will not live up to our full potential.

To have questions is healthy- but to hold God hostage to those questions is not healthy.

The walk of faith is- live by the revelation we have w/mysteries we cannot explain.

We can live w/mystery- still be confident in God.

Deuteronomy 29.29 “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

God holds us accountable to walk in and obey the revelation we have been given and we have a responsibility to grow in our revelation.

V2

Psalm 131.2 Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned child rests against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me.

Weaning is the process of a child learning to eat food other than his/her mother's milk.

The child has learned to be content w/o- milk that seemed so indispensable only- short time ago.

This is a picture of a child growing in maturity.

Paul offers this warning ...

Hebrews 5.13–14 (NASB95)

¹³For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Practice speaks of doing something over/over.

We read the word/pray/declare truth again/again
Psalmist- learned to rest in the revelation of God's
love- w/o the need to understand everything.

He is okay w/mystery/situations- make no sense
to his natural mind/understanding of God.

He is able to be at peace like a weaned child
leaning against his mother.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NASB95)

**⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart And
do not lean on your own understanding.**

**⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, And
He will make your paths straight.**

V3

**Psalm 131.3 O Israel, hope in the Lord
From this time forth and forever.**

First, the Psalmist saw himself as a member of a
larger worshiping community- O Israel- hope.

**Romans 12.5 so we, who are many, are
one body in Christ, and individually
members one of another.**

We are united together in Christ to walk together
with a common vision/support one another.

We are a people, the people of God, a family.

**Ephesians 4.16 ... the whole body, being
fitted and held together by what every**

joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

When we face difficult situations in our lives- we do not need to walk alone.

We are members of one another, connected together, able- encourage/support each other.

Second, the Psalmist is exhorting all of Israel to have confidence, hope in God.

Hope- speaks of waiting on- Lord w/expectation of some resolution to what we are waiting for.

P Tony- waiting is not doing nothing- it is actively pursuing God- His Word, prayer, worship.

Psalm 71.14 But as for me, I will hope continually, And will praise You yet more and more. (even- things look hopeless)

Biblical hope is different from the way we use the word hope today.

Biblical hope does not express uncertainty and it is not wishful imagination.

Biblical hope is not based in fantasy, it is based in the reality of another kingdom.

Kris Vallotton

Hope is an important element of our faith.

Psalm 42.5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.

Verse does not speak of a fix to what we are hoping for but finding peace ...

in His presence/in the middle of the struggle

We know- story-Job-suffering w/boils, his children killed in accident- wife- curse God and die.

Job 13.15 “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him.

Job is completely trusting God with the outcome- whatever it is, but in the meantime He is going to plead His case before God.

Lord heal, Lord set free, Lord provide-he will pray, seek God- but in the end trust God w/outcome.

Hope provides- motivation to live a godly life even in the face of trouble- it looks beyond- trouble.

Hebrews 10.23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Christian hope is ultimately anchored in- belief that God will return for us- we will- resurrected. Certainty of Christ’s resurrection/our resurrection- enables us to live in the here/now with hope.

1 John 3.3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

We have a future hope which empowers and motivates us to live godly lives now.

We hope in the Lord NOW and FOREVER.

Conclusion

Regardless of what life throws at us- whether we understand/not- maintain- confidence in God.

Never allow life’s difficulties to become bigger than God and blind you to His goodness/love.

We all know the story of-12 spies Moses sent out- 10 came back w/bad report, 2 w/good report.

Like the ten spies, we can put difficulties between us and God and say we are not able: or like the two spies, we can put God between the difficulties and us and say we are able. Henrietta Mears

What looks impossible to the natural mind, looks possible to the renewed mind.

Remember it takes no talent/skill/faith to grumble and complain/make accusations against God.

Are you going to allow yourself to be weaned or continue to be a weenie?

Are you going to be a winner or a whiner?

Received- encouraging email- Robert McCown.

He felt like I was struggling in an area of my life and he had just come through such a season.

He said ...

I began reading the passion translation of psalms. Then I wrote down the verses that spoke to me and my situation. I read through these verses every morning, basically brain-washing myself to get rid of depressing thoughts/emotions. After a time I began to have hope and then faith began to grow. Robert McCown

Brain wash yourself with the Word of God ...

>Read the Word

>Pray the Word

>Meditate on the Word

>Reject every thought contrary to the Word

Build your faith up through prayer/Word of God.

Walk in the authority God has given you.

Isaiah 54.17 "No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every

tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their vindication is from Me,” declares the Lord.

We cannot stop Satan from forming weapons against us- remember- they will not prevail. In this new year we must cast doubts aside and put our trust fully in the Lord.

Theme verse for 2019 ...

1 Thessalonians 5.16–18 (NASB95)

¹⁶Rejoice always;

¹⁷pray without ceasing;

¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.