

New Year's Day! 2026

Bringing in the NEW Year with some OLD postcards!

IT'S TIME FOR
ME TO LEAVE!



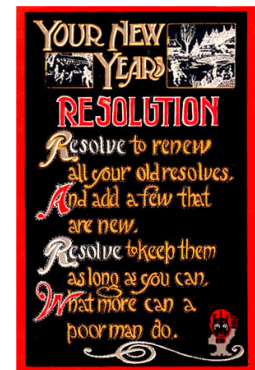
Some of these postcards
may be as old as your
(great)-grandparents!

Some people celebrate the New Year
by drinking themselves unconscious.

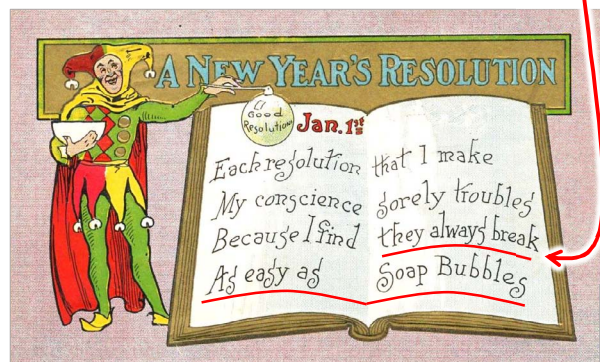


Is this really
what being
"happy" is
all about?

Others celebrate
by making
New Year's
resolutions ...



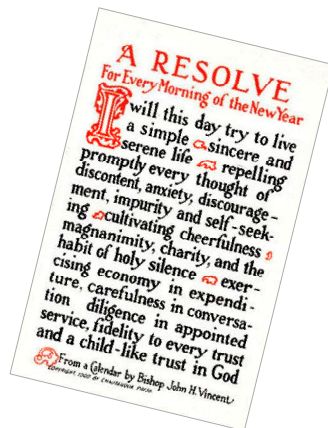
... which they break "as easy as soap bubbles"!



We don't have to be that way!



It is good
to
make goals!



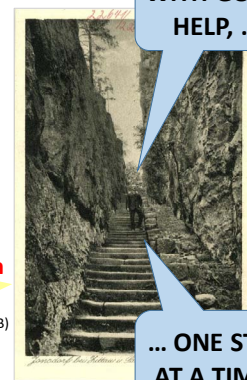
Goals that we can work toward, one step at a time.



FIRST, three
GOD-focused
goals.

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37b (ULB)



1

God-focused
GOAL #1

1

To please God.

Whether we live in the body or move out of it [= die], our goal is to be pleasing to him.

2 Cor. 5:9 (GW)

2

God-focused
GOAL #2

2

To know God.

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

Philip. 3:8a (NLT)

3**God-focused
GOAL #3****3****To remain faithful to God.**

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

John 15:4 (NET)

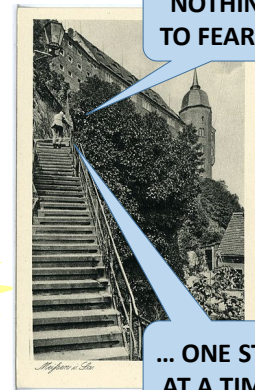
... he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Matthew 10:22b (NIV)

**SECOND, four
PEOPLE-focused
goals.**

**"You must *love* your
neighbor as yourself."**

Matthew 22:39b (ULB)



**NOTHING
TO FEAR, ...**

**... ONE STEP
AT A TIME!**

1**People-focused
GOAL #1****1****To love one another.**

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another.

By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love I for one another."

John 13:34-35 (HCSB)

2**People-focused
GOAL #2****2****To live at peace with others.**

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all people.

Romans 12:18 (NET)

[If you don't succeed, make sure it isn't your fault!]

3**People-focused
GOAL #3****3****To tell others the good news.**

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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."

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

4**People-focused
GOAL #4****4****To encourage spiritual growth and maturity.**

... so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephes. 4:12b-13 (NIV)

ALL of these are good goals.

★ So, it is good to make them our goals! ★

Besides, ALL of them are ...

⇒ moral obligations, and

⇒ part of what it means to "follow Jesus.

**IN THIS MATTER, GOD HAS A PART,
AND WE HAVE A PART!**

GOD'S PART:

1) Empower his people, and

2) Make them willing
to pursue the goals related to LOVE.

For God is working in you, giving you the
desire to obey him and the power to do
what pleases him.

Philip. 2:13 (NLT)

GOD'S SUCCESS RATE IS 100%!

Those who are NOT empowered/willing are NOT his people.

OUR PART:

To live by God's power.

Dear friends, now we are children of God,
and what we will be has not yet been
made known.

But we know that when he appears, we shall
be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Everyone who has this hope in him purifies
himself, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:2-3 (NIV)

Those with a genuine
hope of salvation do this!

We have a final goal: It's something
that many people call "heaven." *

**But WE cannot
accomplish this goal.**

* (Actually, we will live on the new earth – Revelation 21.)

**! CAN'T
DO
IT!**

**NO YOU CAN'T!
THAT'S BECAUSE
IT'S MY JOB TO
DO IT!**

★ GOD ★

will take care of this
final goal.



(not a post card)

What should WE do?

WE just need to:

✓ Trust GOD to get us there.

✓ Focus our efforts on LOVE
for God and neighbor.

If we do this, everything will be fine.

Resolved: To grow in the following graces.

If we belong to God, we have the desire and the ability to do these things.
God has not left us powerless! (Philippians 2:13)



God-focused goals

To please God

Romans 14:17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:9; Ephesians 5:8-10, 15-17; Colossians 1:9-12

To know God

John 17:3; Philippians 3:7-11; 2 Peter 3:17-18

To be faithful to God

Matthew 10:21-22; 24:12-13; Mark 13:12-13; John 15:1-8; Philippians 3:10-14;
2 Timothy 4:6-8; Hebrews 12:1-3; Revelation 2:26

People-focused goals

To love one another

Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:25-37; John 13:34-35; 15:9-17;
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; 16:13-14; 1 John 4:7-12

To live at peace with others

Matthew 5:9; Mark 9:50; Romans 12:18; 2 Corinthians 13:11; 1 Thessalonians
4:11-12; James 3:17-18

To tell others the good news

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 20:24; Romans 15:20-21; 1 Corinthians 9:16; 2 Timothy
4:1-5

To encourage spiritual growth and maturity

Matthew 5:48; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 6:14-7:1; 13:11; Ephesians
4:11-16