

As I was meditating on the incoming new year 2009, it resonated within me that 2009 is new only to the realm of mankind. Every moment that man has lived and will ever live, God has already seen it! Every moment of life of the child of God has already passed before His eyes! It is only in our natural realm that we exercise the power to choose our eternal destiny.

At this time, many are making New Year resolutions and I thought - "what really is a resolution?", so I looked it up in the seventh edition of the Pocket Oxford Dictionary the definitions are quite lengthy to be quoted here, but to get to the true meaning we also need to look up resolute and resolve - there's a little homework for you!

The definitions that struck me most was the musical definition "causing discord to pass into concord" and smallest interval measurable by a scientific instrument".

Romans 12: 1- 2 (The Message) tells us *"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."* Verse 2 of The Amplified version reads *"Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]."*

Most New Year resolutions are abandoned after the first few weeks because they are merely mental decisions. There has been no true transformation. The word "transformed" in this passage comes from the Greek word for metamorphose which means "to change in form, to turn to or into a new form and to change the nature of".

How do we get our resolutions to become transformations and result in a change of nature?

This cannot happen through the mental realm! We must undergo a nature-change and the nature of the born-again believer is that of a spirit-being!

Every house must have a firm foundation and the foundation that we build

our transformation is our decision to do what Paul admonishes in verse 1 of Romans 12 (Amplified) "*1 I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.*"

Here is the decision that we all must make - are we prepared to consecrate ourselves to the one, true, living God? There must be no halfway measures! When we take half-way steps in God we leave a foothold for the devil to attack us, and the Bible tells us to give no place to the devil! (Ephesians 4:27) 2 Corinthians 6:15 (Amp) says "*What harmony can there be between Christ and Belial [the devil]? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?*"

In order to consecrate ourselves we must be prepared to leave things, habits and people behind that are impeding us. Some of the issues may involve serious questions like our livelihood - don't worry! God knows our heart and if we resolve to obey Him He will take care of our need. Jesus said to seek the kingdom of God first and all these things will be taken care of! Let's be realistic - there are people in many parts of the world who risk having their heads chopped off, but they are so consecrated to God and so committed to the cause of Christ that they refuse to relinquish their faith! Read the Book of Acts to see Biblical examples of true consecration! Many left their homes and families to follow after Christ!

How far are you prepared to go? What is the level of your commitment? Will other activities (or rain) keep you away from the prayer meeting, Bible study or Church? Will we allow the things of the flesh and the soul prevent our metamorphosis into the spiritually strong individuals that God desires? Will the things of this world pull us into discord with Him? We can only get into concord with God on the spiritual level because He is a Spirit!

The other definition - "*smallest interval measurable by a scientific instrument*" reminds me of the time it will take a ) for our souls to step into eternity and b) if we are alive when Jesus returns, the time it will take for us to be taken up with Him in the air! (1 Thessalonians 4:15).

Are you ready! Will He find you committed?

*Remember the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25? (CEV) 1The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten girls took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. 2Five of the girls were foolish and five were wise. 3The foolish ones took their lamps, but no extra oil. 4The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps.*

*5The groom was late arriving, and the girls became drowsy and fell asleep. 6Then in the middle of the night someone shouted, "Here's the groom! Come to meet him!"*

*7When the girls got up and started getting their lamps ready, 8the foolish ones said to the others, "Let us have some of your oil! Our lamps are going out."*

*9The girls who were wise answered, "There's not enough oil for all of us! Go and buy some for yourselves."*

*10While the foolish girls were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived. The girls who were ready went into the wedding, and the doors were closed. 11Later the other girls returned and shouted, "Sir, sir! Open the door for us!"*

*12But the groom replied, "I don't even know you!"*

*13So, my disciples, always be ready! You don't know the day or the time when all this will happen.*

Notice from the account that all ten girls went to sleep, (the natural requirement of the body for sleep took over) but the difference was that the five wise girls were prepared!

Are you?