

“A Different Kind of New Year’s Resolution”

(Part 2)

08 January 2025



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

Techie M. Rodriguez
Elder-Founder

St. Paul described to the Philippians all his efforts to achieve his goal of eternal life with Jesus. Even as he was in prison, he was filled with a positive attitude (Phil. 3:10-14). Our Christian life is no different from St. Paul. If our goal is heaven, then our setbacks and disappointments are just steppingstones to the time when we will be with Jesus. Hence, let us appreciate the precious gift of life and our time on earth. We must remember that God loves us, and He always puts goodness to those who love Him (Rom. 8:28).

What are the new kinds of resolutions we should do?

1. Develop a positive outlook toward life. As children of God, we are precious, loved and cared for. Each day, each hour that we are alive is an opportunity to enjoy our blessings and live with confidence. When God is on our side, then no one can be against us.

2. Develop a positive attitude in PRAYER.

2.1. Our prayers produce hope and positive outlook. The world is full of negativity and violence. We must strive to be positive forces in the world, starting with being positive in our prayers. Jesus tells us there is power in believing in prayer and trusting God's answers (Mk. 11:24).

2.2. Our Lord Jesus Christ assures us of God's love and provision (Matt. 6:25-31). He commands us not to be anxious. He will answer our call, nothing is impossible to Him (Jer. 33:3); He is watching to fulfill His promises (Jer. 1:12). He provides like a good father of the family (Matt. 7:7-11); He responds to our persistence (Lk. 18:1-8). These words of God in the Bible boost our confidence.

2.3. We must have the resilience and persistence to wait for God's answer (Ps. 31:24). Caleb's was blessed for loyalty and confidence; he advanced to the promised land (Josh. 14). In our life, We must fix our eyes on Jesus (Heb. 12:2). He will uphold us.

2. Develop a positive attitude in our CHURCH.

2.1 To love the church is to uplift our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Catholic churches must be supported. God will always be with His Church (Matt. 28).

2.2 We must be loyal to our community. Our community is where we learn to love the word of God. The church and the community are God's works, and we must not hinder their growth.

2.3 We must recall the wise words of Gamaliel who advised the Pharisees about their treatment of Peter and the apostles; he reminded them that anything that comes from God cannot be destroyed (Acts 5).

2.4 Moreover, our financial support to the church is not a waste of money (Matt. 26:10,12).

3. Display a positive attitude toward OTHERS. We should remember that we must treat people kindly when we share Jesus Christ. Our world now does not even exercise courtesy. We must promote peace and mutual edification (Rom. 14:19). God uses us to save the lost. Let us love and encourage everyone, including strangers. Help others put aside negativity and develop a positive attitude.

4. What are the strategies to develop positivity?

4.1 Memorize and internalize the Bible. God guides us.

4.2 Remember that we have control on our attitude.

4.3 Accentuate the positive. Be thankful for blessings.

4.4 Be solution oriented. Do not focus on the problem.

4.5 Associate with positive people.

Conclusion: Let us start the year with a resolution to change for the better. Let us resolve to be positive as we look at our lives, at the church, in our prayers and how we look at others. Let us look forward to 2025 to be the best year. We will be closer to Jesus than last year. Let us trust in the Lord and allow Him to use us for His glory.

Reflection:

1. What will you work on to develop a positive attitude?

2. Who have you hurt and how can you make up for it?

Prayer: “I accept you, Jesus, to come and sit in the center of my life. Most precious name of Jesus, I accept You as my Lord and Savior and I will be faithful to You. Amen.”