



Many years ago, the great British Explorer George Mallory, who was to die on Mount Everest, was asked why did he want to climb it. He responded, *"Because, Sir, it is there"*.

Psalm 24:3-5 KJV

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place

4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

With such high requirements to reach the summit, there are times in ever believers' life when they come to a frame of mind and conclude, *"why should I even try?"*

Notes: _____

Developing a resolute soul involves several elements, among which are listed above:

- *Clean Hands*
- *A Pure Heart*
- *Unpreoccupied life*
- *A Love of Truth*



Resolve = a decision that brings about an end.



Resolute = a decision that stirs us to fresh starts & new beginnings

At its core, this term speaks more of letting things go, rather than dogmatic.

Like a child that has outgrown it's crib and rattle, a teenager that has finally outgrown unnecessary haggling with persons of authority. A resolute soul takes stewardship of his or her own destiny, and works diligently to see it come to fruition.

Making Blessed Choice

As Joshua spoke to the nation of Israel, he challenged them to consider two potential futures they lay just ahead.

- 1) *They could choose to serve the Lord and reap the consequences of that decision.*
- 2) *They could choose to serve the God of the Amorites and absorb the risk of that decision.*

Regardless of their verdict, he pushes them to make a firm choice after years of teeter-tottering.

Joshua 24:1, 15 KJV

1 And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

- I gave unto Esau mount Seir... *(Verse 4)*
- I plagued Egypt, and I brought you out... *(Verse 5)*
- I put a hedge between you and the Egyptians... *(Verse 7)*
- I gave the Amorites into your hand, I destroyed them from before you... *(Verse 8)*
- I delivered you from the hand of Balaam... *(Verse 10)*
- I pulled down the walls of Jericho... *(Verse 11)*
- I provided resources, (food, shelter, etc.) you did not earn... *(Verse 12)*

Point! God has been *good*, indeed *so good* to you and me!

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Of course, many here today have concluded, "I will also serve the Lord". My focus this evening can be encapsulated by this follow up question, "...to what degree?"

Developing a resolute soul is an indispensable tool in the formation of excellent persons. A big part of our job as disciples is not to just make decisions for ourselves, but to help others develop the capability to make those decisions themselves, by our example.

Observation: Your testimony may be the only Bible study you can teach to a person, so, teach it will skill!

Behind Slammed Doors

Key Understanding! A firm decision to place God 1st, at the forefront, brings stability to every other area of our life. Nevertheless, we will all face trouble, conflict or suffer setbacks – often that we wish no one else to see.

Stubborn, persistent faith or trust in God yields great immediate results, and eternal rewards. A resolute soul is not derailed by conflicts. Prayer rooms are places that we talk with God: Prayer closets can be the places we go fight and argue with ourselves!

1 Peter 1:13-16 KJV

13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Notes: _____

If growing pains tell us anything, It is this: that only through labor and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things in Christ.

Point! To be resolute means discerning about when to restrain as well as release our energy.

The Value of Distance

Ruminating over our immediate decisions, and our eventual destinies can drive us a little crazy.

Ascribing supreme importance to every decision will paralyze our faith. Getting bogged down in the details can also interfere with your ability to gain clarity on what you really want.

Research suggests that distracting yourself from a decision for a little while and coming back to it with a fresh eye can help you make the right move.

Mark 6:30-32, 34,38 NKJV

30 Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.

31 And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

32 So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.

Having "*What should I do with my life*" conversations with God opens the doors to have "*this is my calling*" conversations with others.

We must invest the time in prayer and fasting to become educated as to our function in the Body of Christ, our role in the crusade to reach the lost, and then develop a laser point focus on that given mark.

Notes: _____

34 And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them

38 But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish."

Staunch faith will cause us to become positioned to be used in God's Kingdom. Conviction has a magnetic pull to it.

Key Understanding! Unbendable determined strong-minded disciples are necessary to make progress in *world around us*. Oft times, the exact same qualities are needed to make headway in *the throne room*.

The creation of a fully formed disciple is a rigorous process, that requests the patience and steadfastness of both the mentor/teacher and the pupil/student.

Keeping the Ball Rolling

Having a resolute mind does not consist of our making a one-time commitment. In developing a resolute mind, it is better thought of a lease contract on our calling, dreams and aspirations in God's kingdom - A lease that we must pay "rent" to keep.

Not making one major decision but countless small, or insignificant ones that pile on top of each other. The signature of mediocrity is not an unwillingness to change. The signature of mediocrity is chronic inconsistency.

Acts 10:1-4

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Cornelius gave generously to the temple, with no promise of response from god. No passage from the Torah, or Mosaic Law guaranteed that God would receive his sacrifices - He simply gave because he felt it was the right thing to do.

God couldn't not continue to allow Cornelius to give, with a resolute soul: To sacrifice and bless Gods people and not bless Cornelius back. If he had, it would have heaped shame on the Lord.

Point! A resolute mind may not be a rational one by the world's standards.

A culture of discipline is not a principle of business; it is a principle of greatness. For a family to relieve itself of being dysfunctional, for disciples to emerge from obscurity, they must make rigid guidelines.

Joshua 14:12-15 KJV Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day;

Why should I pursue ministry?

"Because, Sir, it is possible"

Why must I remember Calvary?

"Because, Ma'am, it is there"

Why would I pray?

"Because, dear one, HE is listening"

May we all be found...

Developing A Resolute Soul