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Blessed are the peacemakers.



# *Forever Wild*

January 6, 2018

"RESOLVE"

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation"  
*(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

A new year? An opportunity to grow in our life-giving relationship with God? More possibilities to build relationships with people and to express real love to real people with real needs? Significant moments to demonstrate what the kingdom/reign of God might look like in our communities? Increased invitations to be healthier physically, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually and discover God's shalom/well-being in our lives?

Most of us, including me, have set goals/resolutions/mile-markers for our lives in 2018. I read this week on an e-mail blast from Mindful, the article, "Passion Will Spark Your Resolutions, Not Pressure". By the end of January, for most of us, the nagging pressure of tight clothes, the impetus of a spiritually charged Advent and Christmas, the spark of newness and change in the unfulfilling routines and habits of lives and the resolve to address issues in our world have

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up improvements in our lives and in the life of our churches and world has fizzled and we've lost our sparkle.

How can it be different? The above-mentioned article gave a "7-step guide to help you manifest whatever you want to achieve":

### **R – Recognize a yearning to change**

"Once you can see that you want more freshness in your life, you can kick your resolve into gear and make it happen." Have we sensed 3 – 4 ways that we desire God's new creation in our lives?

### **E – Engage all your resources**

A question I ask in coaching a team or relationship is "What will support your hope/resolution/goal? Do we need to invite others to hold us accountable to support and encourage us? Do we need to stop doing something so we can start something new?"

### **S – Soften your need for speed**

"Instead, make headway slowly." We've probably heard that "Rome was not built in a day". Real change in a habit takes at least 66 days. A lasting change in a church's culture/way of being and living takes 5 – 7 years.

### **O – Open up to why this matters to you**

In 2 Timothy 1:6, Paul, the mentor, says to Timothy, the apprentice, "rekindle the gift of God that is within you". Return to your initial inspiration whenever you need a boost of motivation.

### **L – Learn to make allies of your obstacles**

Obstacles will appear on the road to change. Obstacles are not setbacks. They offer us opportunities to develop more courage, clarity and strength.

### **V – Value your own efforts**

"It takes determination, energy and powerful intention to connect with our heart's desire." Let's celebrate small accomplishments along the way!

### **E – Enjoy the twists and turns**

"Plans have a nasty habit of changing and veering us off course. Learn to adapt your route as your resolve propels you forward. The curve balls and surprises are what makes life such a titillating adventure."

Resolve will move us ahead towards God's dream for us in 2018!

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Steve



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