



“I Resolve to Pray”

John 14:12-14 p. 901

December 31, 2017

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

As the New Year begins, we are wise to make a resolution for prayer.

I Resolve: Prayer (Jonathan Edwards)

29. Resolved: Never consider something a prayer, nor to let pass for a prayer, any petition that when making I cannot actually hope that God will answer; nor offer as a confession anything which I cannot hope God will accept.

64. Resolved: Whenever I experience those “groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8.26), of which the Apostle speaks, and those “longings” that consume our souls, of which the Psalmist speaks (Psalm 119:20), I will embrace them with everything I have within me. And I will not be weary of earnestly endeavoring to express my desires, nor of the repetitions so often necessary to express them and benefit from them.

The Text: John 14:12-14

- 1) Prayer is the primary “work” or ministry of the Christian and the church.

- 2) Prayer is part of our communion with Christ, not an accessory to our (apparently) independent lives.

- 3) Prayer should be offered in a manner that matches the mission of God and the character of God.

- 4) Prayer is foundationally an act of submission, not a request.

Response

- I Resolve to Pray!

Sunday Text Questions for “I Resolve to Pray”

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- 1) Starter Question: Have you ever made a New Year’s resolution, and if so, were the resolutions successful or at least helpful?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) In v. 12 Christ commands us to do “works.” Why might it be significant that the works are the same works Christ does – “works that I do?”
- 4) What is the connection between these “works” and the phrase “whoever believes in me” (v. 12)? How does our faith in Christ motivate and direct the works we do?
- 5) Why do so many Christians interpret vv. 13-14 as a “coupon” for answered prayer?
- 6) How does prayer “in my [Jesus’] name” (v. 13) change what we ask for and what we expect when we pray?
- 7) If our prayers will glorify the Father in the Son (v. 13), how does that expand the ways God might answer our prayers?
- 8) If you were honest, what kind of a prayer life do you have?
- 9) What are some ways you could improve your prayer life and your commitment to prayer?
- 10) Using your own words, how would you craft a resolution for prayer?

Further study this week: John 14 on the fuller context of Jesus’ prayer promise (Mon); Acts 6:1-7 on prayer and the ministry of the Word (Tues); 1 John 5:13-15 on God hearing our prayers (Wed); Ephesians 6:10-20 on praying at all times (Thurs); Matthew 6:5-15 on Jesus’ prayer (Fri).