

JANUARY 2022

Researchers say about 60 percent of us make New Year's resolutions but only about 8 percent are successful in achieving them. Regardless of whether we achieved our previous resolutions, most of us go right ahead and make a new set of resolutions—hoping for the best. According to a recent survey, the most popular resolutions:

1. Diet or eat healthier (71%)
2. Exercise more (65%)
3. Lose weight (54%)
4. Save more and spend less (32%)
5. Learn a new skill or hobby (26%)
6. Quit smoking (21%)
7. Read more (17%)
8. Find another job (16%)
9. Drink less alcohol (15%)
10. Spend more time with family and friends (13%)

On the surface, there is nothing wrong with the list, except for one thing...what is it going to take to accomplish your goals? One of the first "rules" of goals is that they are achievable, but with the way the world is going today, you may find it difficult to even SET reasonable goals let alone accomplish them.

The year 2021 has just come to a close, and as we take a look back, I don't believe that there is a one of us that has not been touched by what has taken place with covid, lockdowns, masks, vaccines, chaos, shootings, riots, divisions, and especially **NO ANSWERS OF WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO!**

There is only ONE ANSWER...and that is found in the Word of God, John 14:6
(KJV)

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Notice, Jesus is THE WAY (not a way) Jesus is THE TRUTH (not a truth) and Jesus is THE LIFE (not a life). In other words, Jesus is THE ANSWER! And, on top of that I would like to present to you an attainable goal for 2022, and if you keep this goal, the other “resolutions” will be taken care of and here it is:

Matthew 6:33 (KJV)

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Also, let’s look at the Amplified Bible of Matthew 6:33

Matthew 6:33 (AMP)

³³ But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.

So, I would present to you that even though the coming year may bring certain situations that are BY DESIGN to motivate fear in us, no matter what comes, may we seek **FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS WAY OF DOING...**and as we do it **FIRST**, our lives will be **ADDED TO** not taken away from.

May each one of us examine ourselves, and make an honest evaluation about what our relationship is with the Lord Jesus Christ...and when we see things that need “tweaked” then we need to **FIX IT** and **WALK IN THE BLESSING!**

Matthew 6:33 is **ATTAINABLE**, and **YOU ARE WELL ABLE!**

Kathy and I are looking forward with you for the best year ever in 2022!

With Agape Love,
Dore
Kathy
For the
MAT. 6:33



GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

From “American Minute” by William J. Federer

In 1788, Poet Robert Burns published an ancient Scottish folk song “**Auld Lang Syne**,” (meaning “in days of old gone by”). A similar poem was written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1881, titled “**Auf Wiedersehen**” (meaning “until we meet again”). Longfellow dedicated it to the memory of his friend James T. Fields.

The poem alluded to the bible verse in **Hebrews 11** “**By faith...women received their dead raised to life again**,” and that Heaven is where we will see our friends again forever: **Until we meet again!** That is the meaning of the familiar words, that men repeat at parting in the street. Ah yes, till then! **but when death intervening Rends us asunder, with what ceaseless pain We wait for the Again!...**

Believing, in the midst of our afflictions, **That death is a beginning, not an end**, We cry to them, and send Farewells, that better might be called predictions, **Being fore-shadowings of the future, thrown Into the vast Unknown.**

Faith overleaps the confines of our reason, And if **by faith, as in old times was said, Women received their dead Raised up to life**, then only for a season Our partings are, **nor shall we wait in vain Until we meet again!**

James T. Fields was born December 31, 1817. His father was a sea captain and died before Fields was three years old. James T. Fields was the editor of **The Atlantic Monthly**, 1862-1870, where he became friends with the most notable writers of his day, including: William Wordsworth, William Makepeace Thackeray, Charles Dickens, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., and James Russell Lowell.

The Atlantic Monthly published many notable works, including: **Julia Ward Howe’s “Battle Hymn of the Republic”**; works of **Mark Twain**; and later, **Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s** response to pacifist clergy who argued that preachers should not get involved in politics.

King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” referred to Christian and Jewish thinkers such as **St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Paul Tillich and Martin Buber.**

A famous writer who had some works published in **James T. Fields’ The Atlantic Monthly**, was **Charles Dickens**, author of **The Christmas Carol** 1843.

A relatively unknown work by **Charles Dickens** written for his ten children was titled. **The Life of Our Lord**, 1849. It was left in the possession of his sister-in-law, Miss Georgia Hogarth.

At her death in 1917, it belonged to **Charles Dicken’s eighth son, Sir Henry Fielding dickens**, who made provision in his Last Will and Testament to have it published.

In March of 1934, **Marie Dickens** proceeded to have it published in serial form by the **Associated Newspapers, Ltd., of London**. In it, **Charles Dickens** wrote: “My dear children, I am very anxious that you should know something about the **History of Jesus Christ**. For everybody ought to know about Him. No one ever lived, who was so good, so kind, so gentle, and so sorry for all people who

did wrong, or were in anyway ill or miserable, as he was. And he is now in **Heaven**, where we hope to go, and **to meet each other after we are dead, and there be happy always together**, you never can think what a good place **Heaven** is, without knowing **who he was and what he did.**"

Relaying the Gospel, **Dickens** continued: "When he came out of the Wilderness, he began to **cure sick people** by only **laying his hand upon them**; for **God** had given him power to **heal the sick**, and to **give sight to the blind**, and to do many wonderful and solemn things of which I shall tell you more bye and bye, and which are called the "**Miracles of Christ**. I wish you would remember that word, because I shall use it again, and I should like you to know that it means something which is **very wonderful and which could not be done without God's leave and assistance.**"

Giving the account of Lazarus, **Dickens** wrote: "**Jesus** ordered the stone to be rolled away, which was done. Then, after casting up his eyes, and thanking **God**, he said, in a loud and solemn voice, '**Lazarus, come forth!**' and **the dead man, Lazarus, restored to life, came out** among the people, and went home with his sisters. At this sight...**many of the people there, believed that Christ was indeed the Son of God**, come to instruct and **save mankind.**"

The Atlantic Monthly published an article by abolitionist minister **Thomas Wentworth Higginson**, April 1862, titled "**Letter to a Young Contributor**," which inspired the **young Emily Dickinson**.

Of Puritan descent, **Emily Dickinson's** grandfather **Samuel Fowler Dickinson** founded **Amherst College**. Growing up, her family had daily religious observances. At age 13, her father gave her a Bible. She wrote in her letters of church sermons: "We had such a splendid sermon from that Prof Park—I never heard anything like it."

While **Emily Dickinson** was attending Amherst College in 1845, there was great **religious revival** which resulted in the Temperance Movement closing the town's saloons. At this time, her father Edward, and sister, Lavinia, publicly declared their faith in Christ and officially joined the **Congregationalist Church**, August 11, 1850.

Emily Dickinson wrote: "I never enjoyed such perfect peace and happiness as the short time in which I felt I had found my savior... (it was the) greatest pleasure to commune alone with the great God & to feel that he would listen to my prayers."

(To be continued next month)

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

IT IS TIME FOR CHRISTIANS TO AWAKEN AND ACT!

MAY GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!