

January 4, 2020

GOD FIRST BY HABIT

With a new year there are new opportunities—with God’s mercies renewed!

Have you already established or renewed your decisions or purposes (2 Cor. 9:7) for this year? Do those purposes include God and the future life? Have you already established the habit of waking up early each morning to seek His presence? Are you seriously planning to enrich your personal devotional time this year by seeking Him faithfully, developing the habit of praying regularly, and studying your Bible and the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide? Is your family planning to keep or to develop the habit of daily gathering together for a short family worship (all family members included) at the beginning and end of every day?

Have you also reaffirmed your resolution to keep the Sabbath this new year from sunset to sunset, no matter what may happen, and to include in this experience those who live in your house, especially your children (Ex. 20:8-10)? Have you determined to dedicate this day not simply to a selfish rest, but to the rest of the soul? Have you also purposed to attend church and Sabbath School on

Sabbath, keeping yourself from any secular labor during this day, using the remaining time to seek the Lord, trusting that He will provide for your needs (Ps. 34:8-10)?

Have you also established or renewed your purpose to put God first and to learn to trust in Him as the Provider and Sustainer by tithing and by giving also your “Promise” (which is a regular, percentage-based offering)? Have you already decided to set both apart, tithe and Promise, immediately after any income or increase, and from all your income or increase (Prov. 3:9)? Have you also decided the percentage (%) of the income to be dedicated as your Promise, with which to worship God during this new year?

APPEAL: As you worship Him, you may prayerfully establish or renew the decision to put God first in all or some of those areas, and to do it by habit.

PRAYER: Dear God, please accept and bless the decisions that we are making in Your presence, as we worship You with Your tithes and offerings!

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