Resolve















Resolve

- Definition A Firm determination to do something.
- Synonyms Resolution, determination,
 commitment, dedication, allegiance,
 faithfulness, fidelity, gumption, sticktoitiveness.

Resolve to Never Turn Back

And Take the Steps to Ensure That you Succeed

Where does our world stand on its concept of resolve?

- When people make a commitment do they keep it?
- When people start something do they finish it?
- When the going gets tough what do people do?
- Resolve is a concept that has fallen somewhere between being under-popularized due to being outdated and criticized as being too extreme.

How do you look at the concept of resolve?

- Has the world affected your definition?
- Has the world affected your practices?
- Can you get better at it?

Historical Examples of Resolve:

A Physical Conqueror - Hernándo Cortés

- He set out to do something that no one else had ever been able to do, conquer the peoples and treasures of interior Mexico.
- Upon landing in Mexico (Veracruz) he had his 600 men do something absolutely unheard of.
- Burn and Scuttle the war party's 16 ships
- There was no place for turning back
- Hardened the group's drive to go forward
- This is what resolve to conquer physical territory looks like

Historical Examples of Resolve:

Jesus - The Pattern for a Spiritual Conqueror

- Luke 9:51 ⁵¹ Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem
- Definition (G4741) To set fast, to turn resolutely in a certain direction

Jesus - The Pattern for a Spiritual Conqueror

• Hebrews 12:1-2 ¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Spiritual Conquerors Following the Pattern

 Acts 19:18-20 ¹⁸ And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. ¹⁹ Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Spiritual Conquerors Following the Pattern

- These were committed converts to Christ at Ephesus who imitated Christ
- They steadfastly set their faces
- And they backed it up with firm irreversible action.
- Burn Your Scrolls! This is what the resolve to conquer for Christ looks like

Spiritual Conquerors Following the Pattern

- We are at war against forces that seek to conquer us.
- Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- Thoroughly get rid of all that hinders you spiritually, lest you be drawn back.
- Burn "your Scrolls" before they burn you!

- The apostle Paul begins the book of Romans telling Christians at Rome to be resolute
- •Romans 1:11-12 ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be **established** ¹² that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

- Paul ends the book of Romans stating that God is able to make Christians resolute
- Romans 16:25 25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began ²⁶ but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith

- The Apostle Peter prays that God may make Christians resolute
- •1 Peter 5:10 ¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

- God wants to make you resolute
- 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 ¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, ¹³ so that He may **establish** your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

- God will make you resolute
- •2 Thessalonians 3:3 ³ But the Lord is faithful, who will **establish** you and guard *you* from the evil one.

- James the Apostle reminds us to make our own heart resolute
- James 5:7-8 ⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. **Establish** your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Retreat and return to sin

- > Do you have a plan in place for going backwards?
- Do you have a plan in place to retreat when being a Christian becomes difficult?
- ➤ We will fail if we have a back-up plan or a plan for retreat!
- ➤ What's up dog? How's the vomit? 2 Peter 2:22
- > Burn That Plan!

Is It Possible to Commit to Seek God Without Retreat?

We must make ourselves ready for conquering

- Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.
- There is no Ship going back!
- No thought of returning back from where we came!
- Putting on Christ every day in study and prayer is our drive forward!

Is It Possible to Commit to Seek God Without Retreat?

We must make ourselves ready for conquering

• 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled

We must make ourselves ready for conquering

- The battle is won or lost in our minds long before we take action with our bodies.
- Keeping our thoughts and our hearts with God, keeps us with God
- Cast down everything in your mind that exalts itself above God!

Is It Possible to Commit to Seek God Without Retreat?

More than Conquistadors

•Romans 8:35-39 ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

More than Conquistadors

•37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is what it looks like to serve God every day

- Not looking back, with longing, at what I have left behind
- Putting Christ in my mind through studying and thinking on the word
- Putting my mind in God's hands trough prayer, faith, and trust
- Always pushing forward towards the one direction of the upward call
- Philippians 3:14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Is It Possible to Commit to Seek God Without Retreat?

Yes It Is! People are doing it right now!

You can do it too!

More than Conquerors

Are you willing to burn and sink the things in your life that oppose your forward progress with Christ?