



# The Flame

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from GCCN Prayer Ministries

## Resolutions Gone Wild

The New Year is already two weeks old, and if you listen closely you will hear a sharp shattering sound piercing the silence of the winter evenings. That's the haunting evidence of resolutions that are being broken before the paint on the pennants has dried.

The most common resolutions include:

- 1) Lose weight, quit smoking, get fit, eat healthy food, drink less alcohol
- 2) Get a better education, get a better job, save money, manage debt
- 3) Manage stress, take a trip
- 4) Volunteer to help others, recycle and re-use, do with less

Notice that list 1, the longest, centers on health and diet. List 2 focuses on our finances. List 3, our comfort. And lastly, lest we forget, we intend to do something to help others. Pretty normal, right?

I have no problem with setting resolutions as long as we are not merely creating a wish list. After all a resolution is an objective about which we are to be *resolute*! We are supposed to mean business.

As we begin the journey into another year, there is one single matter about which we certainly need to be resolute. Let us resolve that Matthew 6:33 will be our daily theme: (S)EEK first his kingdom and his righteousness.

Let His Kingly authority and His righteousness be our highest priority and personal standard with every step and waking hour. The effect on all the "other things" in life, including all those other resolutions, will be profoundly transformational.

## Take Your Next Step

Begin a new pattern to your prayer life, not just for this year, but for the rest of your days. Enter into His presence with this declaration: Lord, I recognize your authority over my life and your righteousness as my heart's desire.

In reality, there is no other way to enter His presence. Whether we declare those words or not, our hearts must take the posture of submission to His sovereign authority. But taking time to declare His rightful place over us serves as a reminder to us that He is indeed the Lord whose everlasting mercy and amazing grace we embrace with fresh awareness.

Declare Him to be Lord. He takes pleasure in hearing it, and our affirmation serves to deepen our awareness of who He is and who we are in Him.