

Jonathan Edwards was a pastor and theologian in the early 1700's. While widely known for his sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," Edwards work went far beyond that one sermon. One of Edwards' contributions to spiritual living is his composition of 70 resolutions. These resolutions written originally in archaic language has been condensed and translated to Modern English by Steve Hanchett, Tulsa Evangelical Examiner.

People who are looking to make deeper spiritual commitments might be helped and inspired by the resolutions of Jonathan Edwards.

His introduction to them reads: *Being aware that I am incapable of doing anything without God's help; I humbly ask Him for His grace to enable me to keep these resolutions, as long as they are in keeping with His will and are kept for Christ's sake.**

His passion for the glory of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ is well worth imitating.

I encourage you to read these over, meditate on them, and consider to adopt some of them as your own.

First, pray and ask for God's enabling power. Remember that it's not just a matter of you deciding to change, but it's God who is working in your life to make you more like His Son.

Second, review these resolutions on a regular basis. Decide on a schedule, whether it's daily, weekly, or monthly. Monitoring your progress is key to your success.

Third, don't give up. Keep struggling and striving. Don't be discouraged by short-term failure.

As I reflect on Edwards' resolutions I find them full of wisdom for living a good life that honors God and blesses others. May the values expressed in these resolutions become a part of your life and bring honor and glory to Christ!

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**The Resolutions of
Jonathan Edwards**

**Making
Deeper
Spiritual
Commitments**

Mike Prah

Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards

Part 1

1. I am resolved to do whatever I think will most glorify God, be good, profitable and pleasurable for me and do the most good for mankind. I am committed to do so as long as I live and in spite of whatever difficulties stand in the way.
2. I am resolved to not waste the time I am given but to use it in the most profitable way I can.
3. I am resolved to live with all my might as long as I live.
4. I am resolved to never do anything I wouldn't be doing if I knew it was the last hour of my life on this earth.
5. I am resolved to never do anything out of revenge.
6. I am resolved to live as I imagine I will wish I had lived when I come to die.
7. I am resolved to carefully and constantly discover what it is that causes me to doubt God's love, and to fight against that.
8. I am resolved to study the Scriptures in such a way that I can see myself growing in my understanding of them.
9. I am resolved never to pray anything without the hope that God will answer, and never to confess anything without the assurance that God will forgive.
10. I am resolved to never say anything against anyone else unless it can be done with honor, love and humility; and with a realization of my own faults; and is guided by the Golden Rule.

Part 2

1. I am resolved to be a peacemaker whenever possible.
2. I am resolved that when I tell a story to always speak the pure and simple truth.
3. I am resolved that every night when I go to bed to ask myself if I have been negligent in my responsibilities, if I have committed sin that day and if I have practiced self-denial in any way. I will also spend some time at the end of every week, month and year asking myself these questions.
4. I am resolved not to do anything if I doubt it is right.
5. I am resolved to renew my commitment to God on a regular basis.
6. I am resolved to treat my parents, my spouse, and my children with respect in the way I speak to them and look at them.
7. I am resolved to examine myself so as to know with certainty that I am truly saved.
8. Having often heard elderly people talk about what they would do if they could live life over again, I am resolved to try and live as I believe I will have wanted to live if I live to an old age.
9. I am resolved to use every experience as an opportunity to rest my faith on the Lord Jesus Christ.
10. I am resolved that whenever someone says something positive about another person, if I believe it would be right for me, I will try to live that way also.

Part 3

1. I am resolved to not allow the fear of adversity keep me from doing God's will. I will do what God asks and if adversity comes, I will rest in Providence.
2. I am resolved to not allow my words to be filled with anger, worry or contempt; but to speak words of love, joy and kindness.
3. I am resolved to be aware when I am in a bad mood and likely to act in hurtful ways and to stop and seek out the root cause of my bad spirit and set it right.
4. I am resolved to do God's will cheerfully and willfully and to do everything as unto the Lord.
5. Though no one has ever lived a perfect Christian life, exactly reproducing the likeness of Christ and always a shining light in every circumstance; I am resolved to strive with all my might to be that one.
6. I am resolved as long as I live to always live transparent before God and, as much as I am able, to tell him my sorrows, temptations, hopes, desires, troubles and fears.
7. I am resolved after every affliction to ask myself three things: How has this made me a better person? What good has come from this trial? What good might I have received from this trial that I missed?
8. I am resolved to be honest with myself and God about every weakness and sin in my life and to seek God for help to overcome.
9. I am resolved to do what I wish I had done when I see others do it.
10. I am resolved to make sure there is some kindness toward others in everything I say.