

Seek Peace and Pursue It

Every year at this time I usually think about making new year's resolutions. For the past two years, I decided to just work hard at being a good person and loving the Lord and letting my life reflect His love. In the past, I have made resolutions to pray more, read the Bible more, eat better and exercise. I discovered that if I just commit to being a better version of me, I actually do all those things without having to make a new year's resolution. I just ask the Lord daily to help me in my walk with Him.

However, this past year has brought me to a new resolution for 2021. Maybe it is not exactly a resolution, but a decision to look at life differently. I am waking up every morning and looking at my future and saying, "This is the first day to the rest of my life!"

As I view life this way, it helps me to put my mistakes and regrets behind me and look at life with hope. I cherish precious memories and look forward to making new ones. It produces hope and, as a result, produces peace. I have to make a conscious effort each morning to pursue that peace in my new day.

This new way of thinking caused me to reflect on the "firsts" in my life. I remember when I was a little girl and went to the zoo for the first time. I was in awe and wonder looking at all of the animals. I wanted to see everything and had a great desire to just get in there with them! Obviously, my parents wouldn't let me get in the pen with the animals! My heart was so full of joy and wonder on my "first" visit to the zoo. I also remember going to Disney the "first" time! There was so much to do and so much to see and it was like all the fairy tales had come to life! Then I remembered my first job. I was so nervous, but very excited about the possibilities and making new friends. I remember the day I got married, the day my children were born and our first puppy!

I wanted to start out the new year of 2021 with that same feeling of wonder and expectancy. If I listen to the news, my future doesn't sound very promising. If I focus on the pandemic, again, my future doesn't sound very promising. However, I choose to wake up each morning with an expectant and hopeful heart of what the Lord has in store for me as I start "the first day of the rest of my life!"

I want to leave you with this verse as you meditate on the Lord: "Thou hast granted me life and favor, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit." Job 10:12 (KJV)

The Lord has granted you life and favor and He will preserve your spirit each new day as you begin the rest of your life. Seek peace and pursue it. Only God can give you that complete peace as you pursue him this new year of 2021.

Blessings,
Karen Harper