

Resolved

Many people start out the year promising to do this or that, change this or that, break a bad habit, or start a new one. Sometimes it works; often it doesn't. Why is that?

A man once owned an eagle, and for many years kept him chained to a stake. Every day the eagle walked around and around that stake, and over time wore a rut in the ground. When the eagle was getting old, his master felt sorry for him and decided to set him free. So he took the metal ring off the eagle's foot, lifted the eagle from the ground, and tossed him into the air. He was free—but he had forgotten how to fly! He flip-flopped to the ground, walked back over to his old rut, and started walking in circles like he had for years. No chain and shackle held him, just the habit!

There is a saying: "The chains of bad habits are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken," and that would be true if it weren't for the Lord and His power.

Ask Him to help you overcome a vice, bad habit, or weakness, and you will see results. He said, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37 KJV), and "whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive" (Matthew 21:22 NKJ). You may have to put a great deal of your own will to the transformation process as well, but with God's strength and His intervention, you'll find you have more resolve, determination, and ability to change than you ever thought possible.



It's not possible for you to change yourself, but it's possible for God to change you by the miracle-working power of His Spirit. He'll do things you can't do!

This is what it means to "become a new creature in Christ Jesus" (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV). *(A modern translation, The Living Bible, says, "When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!")* Jesus coming into your life not only renews and purifies and regenerates your spirit, but it also renews your mind, literally breaking old connections and reflexes and gradually rebuilding it and rewiring it into a whole new computer system with a different outlook on life and a new way of looking at the world, with new reactions to nearly everything around you.

But it's impossible for you to make this change yourself. If you want this change, it's necessary for you to ask Jesus to help. Some changes are instantaneous, others take awhile.—But if you ask Him for help and do your part, you'll be changed, because Jesus changes people!—*David Brandt Berg*



What shall I wish you?
Treasures of earth?
Songs in the springtime?
Pleasures and mirth?
Flowers on your pathway,
Skies ever clear?
Would this ensure you
A happy new year?

What shall I wish you?
What can be found
Bringing you sunshine
All the year round?
Where is the treasure,
Lasting and dear,
That shall ensure you
A happy new year?

Faith that increases,
Walking in light;
Hope that's abounding,
Happy and bright;
Love that is perfect,
Casting out fear;
These shall ensure you
A happy new year.

Peace in the Savior,
Rest at His feet,
Smile of His countenance
Radiant and sweet.
Joy in His presence!
Christ ever near!
This will ensure you
A happy new year!
—*Francis Ridley Havergal,*
adapted