

RISKALUTIONS 2025

Psalm 51:10-11

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

It's that time of the year again, time to make New Year's Resolutions.

- Some of you have already made some, and will try hard to keep them.
- Some have made some, but have already resigned to the fact that they won't be keeping them past February.
- Some of you won't make them because you know how you are and what's the point?

Sometimes, we don't make resolutions because we're afraid we're just going to break them anyway.

- Why make the bed?
- Why wash the car?
- Why take a shower?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is your relationship with your family better, worse, or the same as it was last year?
- Is your relationship with God better, worse or the same as it was last year?
- What have I done for God this past year? What opportunities has God given me? What opportunities have I missed?
- How much time have I spent reading the Bible?
- How much time in prayer?

Maybe you wanted to have a daily quiet time

Stuff Christians Like: Quiet Time

Maybe the reason we fail is that our goal is too big. Try bite size chunks.

- My daughter Ava cleaning up her room one section at a time

Or maybe we fail because we are trying to do it all on our own.

RISKOLUTIONS:

Rather than resolving to change through your own will power and strength of mind, take a step of faith and offer God 365 opportunities to use you in ways you never would have thought possible...

Many of us just want a safe life. A life without risks.

Francis Chan balance beam video

1 Corinthians 2:9

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him

What if we challenged ourselves to be good neighbors in 2025? And I don't just mean the guy in the house next door who still picks up his newspaper in his underwear.

To go outside of our safe bubble and to take some risks. To reach the people who are different than us to take time to hear their story, to listen to their perspective. To learn from each other. To allow ourselves to be even be inconvenienced for the sake of loving our neighbor as ourself.

When you start to act with unhindered love for God and unwavering faith that you are the person that God has prepared unimaginable things for, you will have the newest New Year you've ever experienced!

Need some evidence?

- What if Noah decided to play it safe and not become a boat builder in his old age instead of saving the human race?
- What if Moses resolved to stick with tending sheep instead of delivering 3 million people from slavery?
- What if David did the common sense thing and kept his mouth shut with Goliath instead of showing the who world that there is a God in Israel?
- What if Daniel hid his faith instead of seeing an angel close the jaws of man-eating lions?
- What if a teen-aged Mary told God "no" instead of having the honor of giving birth to our Savior?
- And yes, what if Jesus decided that it wouldn't be worth the pain and suffering on earth to pay the penalty for our sins?

All of these people faced risky propositions. It was not easy for them to follow God, but look at how God used their faith and trust. The return on this investment of faith paid huge dividends.

What if you exchange this incredible opportunity in 2025 to make risky resolutions to live a life that takes chances and follows the leading of the Holy Spirit and changes your corner of the world?

God didn't call us to a safe life. He's not safe.

The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe:

"Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion" ..."Safe?" said Mr Beaver ... "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

This God we serve is not tame. He doesn't fit into the nice little box we have designed for Him. He pours over the edges and blurs the margins. And we don't always know what to do, so we have to trust Him. And we should trust Him because He is good.

What if we just do nothing?

Braveheart: "Fight and you may die. Run, and you'll live...at least a while. And dying in your beds, many years from now, would you be willing to trade all the days, from this day to that, for one chance – just one chance – to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they'll never take our freedom!"

Do you know what happens in your life when you don't make any changes? Nothing.

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective."

– **G. K. Chesterton**

And to be honest, this is a huge fear of mine. I don't want "nothing" to be the ending credits of my story, which is why I see this new year as a new challenge to help fulfill the greatest riskolution ever put on the table:

Matthew 28:18-20

I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world

Not a minute of any day goes by when you don't have the power and presence of the Holy Spirit within you, and the people God has placed in your life are not there by accident. God's heart beats in love not only for His children, but for everyone! And the mind blowing truth is that He has placed the message of the gospel and the ability to make disciples in our hands.

So what does 2025 hold for you? Are you willing to make some resolutions? Are you willing to take some risks?

Are you willing to love your neighbor?

To pray for your opponents?

Ask God to use you in someone's life

Sharing the gospel

Go on a missions trip

Volunteer in a ministry

Maybe take a risk and join our children's ministry and help Kevin and make a difference in our kids' spiritual journey

or a thousand other ways to make an eternal difference in this temporary situation called life.