



# G:love 18

Focused Living Ministries

## RESOLVE or RESPOND

*“Dear mom/dad, thanks for \$100 gift certificate for my birthday as I can use it for school. Before leaving home I need to let you know what has really been going on in my heart these past 20*

*years as I can't fake it any more. At 10 years old I **resolved** to keep all your rules, do my chores, get along with sis, achieve good grades, go to church, read the Bible, stay out of trouble and be a good kid. I did all this to keep the peace so things would go smooth and you would stay off my case and out of my face so I could someday run my own life. I wanted your free room, board, health care, laundry service, an allowance, my 1st car and a college education. I really just wanted what you offered me but never really wanted you. Our family is like a business arrangement. You provide for me. I **resolve** to not hassle you. I can make it on my own now without your help. Appreciate the free ride. Later.”* How would you feel reading such a letter? Why? How have we written such a letter to God (motivations, attitude and actions)?

**(Exodus 24:1-7; 19:8)** God graciously saved 2.5 million people from 400 years of brutal slavery and welcomed them into His forever family. After providing for and protecting them in the wilderness He gives them 10 rules for the road each designed keep them centered on His character, safe in His grace and living with mercy and justice toward each other. How did the people initially respond to His commands? Why?



**(Exodus 32:1-9; Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 51:5)** What happened to the great **RESOLVE** of the people a short 40 days later? Why doesn't resolving to try real hard work when it comes to following God?

**(Exodus 32:8, 9, 22, 25; Mark 14:27-31; 66-72)** What phrases does God use to describe what He thinks of our **RESOLVE** in spite of the love He has poured out on us as a gracious Father? How did Peter's **RESOLVE** work out?

**(Gal 2:16, 19-20; 3:1-3, 24; Rom 3:20; 7:7)** **RESOLVE** never works/lasts because it is all about me working hard and not at all about God's work in and through my life! **My** effort, **my** faithfulness, **my** commitment, **my** trying harder, my strength. *“If it's going to be, it's up to me!”* God is not impressed with our resolve as He wants **REPENTANCE**. He knows that if it is 40 days (Israel in Ex 32), 4 days (Perry each week) or 4 hrs (Peter in Mark 14) we will cave because resolve does not take into account the depth of my weak, insecure, fickle, inconsistent heart. The great danger in teaching the 10 commandments is that men **RESOLVE** to keep them because following Christ is often viewed as earning moral merit badges or a spiritual self improvement course of behavior modification to feel better about ourselves and to impress others.



**(Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3, 5; John 1:17; Rev 2:1-5; 3:19)** What does Jesus say is far better than **RESOLVE**? Why? You see, God offers a far more effective/ powerful way to grow spiritually instead constantly resolving only to fail a few days later. It's not about **RESOLVING** to do better or try harder! It's about...

\_\_\_\_\_ His **grace** at the **cross** (Exodus 24:4-8) and \_\_\_\_\_ to the **glory** of His **character** (Exodus 24:13-18) and \_\_\_\_\_ of our sin as often as needed (think lifestyle)!

What about God's grace at the Cross and in your life motivates you to love Him (commands 1-4) and care for others (5-10)? Why does this work far better than resolving to try harder only to cave so quickly?



**(Psalm 84:10)** *“The Lord God is a sun and shield. The Lord gives grace and glory. No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”*

**TAG TEAM ASSIGNMENT** What take away from this lesson will help you develop a lifestyle of repentance? Why?