

**Intro.** In 1968 in response to the Vietnam War & various protests throughout the Western world, John Lennon of the Beatles wrote “You say you want a revolution, well, you know.” When we hear the word “revolution,” we tend to think of acts which lead to war—the American Revolution, various revolts around the world, etc. I’m using a secondary meaning for the term—it refers to a year, the time it takes for the earth to revolve around the sun. As we look at Acts 2 & “Resolutions for a Revolution,” these are a type of New Year’s Resolutions. But revolution can also refer to change, not politically, but in this case, spiritually. My prayer is by God’s grace, He uses the resolutions we make to bring about beneficial change for our lives & for His church. This message not only deals with resolutions to honor our commitment to Christ (some people are against resolutions because many get broken sooner or later, but that Christians should always have a sense of renewal & resolve about their commitment to Christ), but it also points us to what the Lord is calling us to do.

Theme: Vision

Background: You remember what happened a few weeks before Pentecost—Jesus had died for the sins of the world, was buried, rose from the dead & appeared to more than 500 disciples. He commissioned them to carry out His work, but they had to wait on the Holy Spirit first. The Spirit moved & used the good news to transform lives.

- Several observations stand out from this text which were important elements in the life of the early church—discipleship through the apostles’ teaching, fellowship with other believers, prayer, ministry to those in need, faithful stewardship to meet needs, missional living to evangelize others and more.
- I want to take a few of these observations & present them in applicational ways as “Resolutions for a Revolution.”

### **I. Resolved, I Will Read through the Bible in 2015**

- If you have done this several times, let me encourage you to try a different Bible translation. I recommend the ESV or HCSB, but several other good translations exist.
- If you don’t already have a plan, consider using the Come. Drink. Live! 365 plan (available in print in the lobby & within the YouVersion app).
- If you are going to read through the Bible, no matter what plan you use, please sign the poster in the lobby in showing your commitment.

Illus: I had a pastor challenge the church when I was 17 to read through the Bible & I knew I needed to take the challenge & do it—so older children & teenagers, don’t think I’m just speaking to adults here—you’re included, too

- When you read the Bible, read thoughtfully, contextually (one of the best parts of reading consecutively), theologically (what does it teach me about God, Christ, the Spirit, mankind, sin, salvation, heaven, etc.)

### **II. Resolved, I Will Be an Active Participant of a Bible Study Group in 2015**

- 2,000 years ago, believers were gathering in small groups with the apostles—if they needed it then, especially those who followed Jesus’ ministry, how much more do we need it today?
- Those involved in small groups are much more likely to serve, lead, give, pray & grow
- If a class didn’t fit you, find one that does. If you cannot find one to fit, go to Chris Smith & ask him about your options. You may be needed to help start a new class.

### **III. Resolved, I Will Pray Weekly for FBS in 2015**

- While the Lord wants you to pray daily, I’m asking you to pray at least weekly for FBS—me, the staff, people in your SS class, etc.
- Would you consider being part of the 24/7 Prayer Ministry & sign up for at least a 30-minute block to pray each week in the Prayer Chapel? You can sign up in the lobby today.

Illus: You may want to start your own prayer cards this year & write down your requests on one side & the answer to the request on the other side (with dates) & then look them over at Thanksgiving or the end of the year to see how faithful the Lord has been

#### **IV. Resolved, I Will Serve Regularly at FBS in 2015**

- We continually have needs for our church family to be involved with, sometimes because of a new ministry or a new focus or a previous servant has moved away, creating a hole—we need you involved for our church to be at its best

Illus: Some people don't serve because they don't get recognized, but if you need to be recognized to serve, then you aren't serving for the right reasons

#### **V. Resolved, I Will Give at least 10% of My Income to FBS in 2015**

- I'm thankful for our end-of-the-year giving which has caught us up to our budget, but if every family at FBS gave at least a tithe, we'd never have budget shortfalls

Illus: Stewardship is more than giving to the local church, but thinking through all you are spending. Annthea & I look at our family budget & have to make cuts & sometimes the whole family makes sacrifices, but we sit them down & talk them through what we are doing & why we are doing it because we want to be good stewards & we want the same for our children

#### **VI. Resolved, I Will Share the Good News Multiple Times with Unbelievers in 2015**

- Notice I didn't say you should share the gospel with everyone you meet but you can share the gospel a few times with unbelieving co-workers, neighbors, classmates, etc. over the coming year.

Illus: We have more ways to share the gospel now than ever before & some things are hooks to get others to think through gospel issues, much like this video here. Show TrueLife.org video (4:53). Look in your bulletin & you should find a set of 5 cards. Hold them up. Now put them down. Who still needs a set of cards? How many of you will give away 5 cards this week? I'm going to ask you again next week, so let's do it, okay?

- The vision the Lord gave me a few years ago hasn't changed. He laid on my heart the need for a Hispanic ministry & we've hosted one for the last 14 months & it's doing well. He called us to help plant churches in various locations around our country & our world (we've helped in Indianapolis, New Hampshire, Washington, DC, Toronto, Melbourne, Australia & more). I also believe the day is coming when we'll have multiple worship services (for options & style preferences to reach more). I believe we will worship in multiple locations to reach more people. I believe we will have video capabilities to reach people in the comforts of their home. I believe we will build a Family Life Center to give our community an easy entrance point for sports & fitness programs.
- All these things will only be accomplished by our Lord working through His people. Just as Christ grew His church in the first few decades in the book of Acts, He did it through the faithfulness of His people in reaching people with the good news.
- These resolutions, if taken seriously, will help us grow spiritually & numerically in doing what God has called us to do—make disciples.

**Conc.** How many of you have ever sat through one of those 90-minute time share presentations? Don't you love those? I've had them turn into 150-minutes & I had to force them to stop. The good news about this message is two-fold: (1) I've not nearly gone 90-minutes & (2) I'm not selling you anything. But what I'm telling you will cost you time & resources, but it's time & resources invested in the work of our Lord & eternity will reveal how many lives were affected as a result. I'm asking you to commit to one or more of these resolutions & write your name (legibly) & turn it in so we know who we can count on. If you aren't ready to commit to all of them yet, that's fine, but hopefully you are ready to commit to one or more. If you have yet to surrender your life to Jesus Christ, that's the #1 commitment you need to make today. Turn from your sins & trust in Jesus.