

Resolutions Power

Lk.4:16-21

1-10-2010

Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2 (LXX) Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to tell the good news to the poor. He has sent me to announce release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set oppressed people free, (19) and to announce the year of the Lord's favor."

Paul in writing to the Church speaks to the nature of what God's word is and in particular what the Gospel message is to be if it is in fact the Gospel Message. (Rom.1:16; 1Cor.1:17-19, 24; 4:20) The message of the Cross of Christ in all its truth is powerful. What Holy Scripture tell us God has done, is doing and will do is emphatically true.

When Jesus read the words of Isaiah to His home town people he proclaimed those very words to be true in Himself that very day; He is the liberator and this the year of the Lords favor. Jesus is still the liberator and any year that that you gain freedom from what has held you captive I think is the year of God favor. The Gospel message is still the power of God to those who are being saved.

In last weeks lesson we talked a little about what is at the core of making a resolution successful. The truth can set you free and the Gospel brings that truth. There is not a one of us that does not have something holding us captive. Each one of us have some habit of thought, habit of the flesh, or habit of the heart that has control over some part of our lives. It might be an attitude that keeps us from doing, it might be an emotion that prevents us from doing, or in either

case may cause us to do. Rest assured we are not all 100% free. Jesus brings us the power to be free if we are willing to accept it.

Truth like light has the power to displace darkness. Darkness only has power in the absence of light, falsehoods and lies and deceptions only have power in the absence of truth. Remember the four R's from last week? Repent, Renounce, Reclaim, and Restructure are only tools for the memory. The power is in the application of the tools upon our lives.

Repentance is the claiming of truth over a lie. It is accepting God's opinion about something as true and not someone or something else's opinion. It is a turning away from one thing towards another (Acts 26:18; Mt.3:8)

Renouncing is the shifting of your allegiance away from what once held your agreement. It is taking a stand against what has held you captive and taking away its right to have you. (in Jesus it has none) (Dan.4:27) (Prov.28:13)

Reclaiming is the taking back what was lost in your life when you lost control over part of it because of the lie that was accepted instead of the truth. (Mat.11:28)

Restructuring is about adjusting our life to live without the shackles and crippling that they bring. It is adjusting our lives to fill the voids left in the absence of what ever was there. (Mt.12:43-45) The void must be filled with good things. With Godly things.

There is something that must be said here, a disclaimer if you will – freedom is in Christ. What that means is that there is no legal right to exercise freedom if a person does not belong to Christ Jesus. If you have not been purchased by the blood of Jesus then you do not have the legal power and authority to claim freedom for yourself. That power resides in the ownership of Jesus, it is He alone.