

New Year's Resolutions...

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Text: Jn. 15:4-5, Gal. 5:22-23, Phil. 2:13, Matt. 6:33

In my years...

as a Christian I've come to more it seems to end in this "new year's resolution" utter failure and ultimately



thing more than 20 times. force myself to change, by 5:22-23)

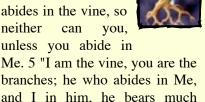
the will of my flesh, the discouragement for me. On the other hand, when I am "led" by the Holy Spirit (Who lives inside of me) to change a pattern in my life, (and without any help from me in the changing) it seems to work out to a victory won.

Self Control (and isn't this what it's all about?) is a Frankly, the more I try to "fruit" of the Spirit. (Gal.

Fruit Doesn't TRY to grow

A tree doesn't wake up one day and say, "today I will produce an orange," no, fruit bearing is simply a natural outcome of water, healthy soil, the sun, weather conditions etc. All these elements completely out of the tree's

control. Jesus said in John 15:4-5 "Abide in Me, and I in you. the As branch CANNOT bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so you, neither can unless you abide in



branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing." (NASB)

So, when it comes to New Year's Resolutions,

relationship. Bringing our burdens, our worship, pleasure to see this fruit manifest in His children. intercession, our cares to Jesus in prayer; listening to Our only job is to cooperate with God Who is at work that still, small voice of the Holy Spirit Who lives in us. (Phil. 2:13) relationship with our Creator; these things are the water, time...as we abide in Christ. Peace In, Big D:)

I believe they are conceived and achieved only by the good soil, the sun, and food that naturally produce "abiding" in Christ. What does it mean to "abide" in the "good fruit" of *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, Christ? The answer to this question is the answer to goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control that every resolution, and fruit bearing experience we will the whole world is longing for and striving for. As ever have as Christians. To abide means to "make a Christians, we are not told to make the fruit, we are told permanent stay, or be at home with." In a practical to bear the fruit; to let the fruit grow on us. It is not our sense, I'd say it's spending time with God in a real job to manufacture this "fruit," it's our Creator's job and

within us; immersing ourselves in His Word, applying So, this New Year let's resolve to know our God better, and practicing the truths we learn from the Bible; more intimately; to seek Him diligently, seeking first naturally telling others about what God is doing in us, His Kingdom and His righteousness; and all the other and what He wants to do in them....these things, this things, the fruit and stuff will come...naturally.... in