

# THE RESOLUTIONS

OF Jonathan Edwards



*Churches Planting Churches*

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Edited by Scott Thomas

Organization of major themes and some minor revisions for clarity were implemented for this publication. The full, unedited document can be readily found on the internet:

[www.jonathanedwards.com/text/Personal/resolut.htm](http://www.jonathanedwards.com/text/Personal/resolut.htm)

“Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God’s help, I do humbly beg Him by His grace to enable me to keep these resolutions, so far as they are consistent to His will for Christ’s sake.”



—Jonathan Edwards  
Devoted Pastor, Prolific Author, Influential  
President of Princeton University

## Devotion to God

1. Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory, and my own good, profit and pleasure, in the whole of my life. Resolved to do whatever I think to be my duty and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general. Resolved to do this, whatever difficulties I meet, no matter how many or how great.
2. Resolved, if ever I shall fall and grow selfish, so as to neglect to keep any part of these Resolutions, to repent of all I can remember, when I come to myself again.
3. Resolved, never to do anything, whether in soul or body, except that which promotes the glory of God.
4. Resolved, to eagerly seek to obtain for myself as much happiness in eternity, as I possibly can. I will do this with all the power, might, vitality, and conviction, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way I can think.
5. Resolved, to examine carefully, and constantly, what that one thing in me is, which causes me in the least to doubt of the love of God; and to direct all my forces against it.
6. Resolved, never willfully to omit any thing, except the omission be for the glory of God; and frequently to examine my omissions.
7. Resolved, never to pray or petition to God, that I do not hope that God will answer it; nor offer a confession, which I cannot hope God will accept.
8. Resolved, to strive to my utmost every week to be brought higher in devotion to God, and to a higher exercise of grace, than I was the week before.
9. Resolved, whenever I doubt whether I have been faithful to God, that I will be disquieted until I have resolved my failings.
10. Resolved, frequently to renew the dedication of myself to God, which was made at my baptism; which I solemnly renewed, when I was received into the communion of the church; and which I have solemnly re-made this 12th day of Jan, 1723.
11. Resolved, never, henceforward, till I die, to act as if I were any way my own, but entirely and altogether God's.

## Devotion to God (Continued)

12. Resolved, to improve every opportunity, when I am in the best frame of mind, to cast and risk my soul on the Lord Jesus Christ, to trust and confide in him, and to consecrate myself wholly to him, my Redeemer. 13. Resolved, when I fear misfortunes and adversities, to examine whether I have done my duty, and resolve to do it, and let the event be just as providence orders it. I will as far as I can, be concerned about nothing but my duty, and my sin.

14. On the supposition that there was to be but one individual in the world who was properly a complete Christian in all respects, having Christianity always shining in its true luster, and appearing excellent and lovely, from whatever part and under whatever character viewed: Resolved, to act just as I was that one, who should live in my time.

15. Resolved, when I experience longing that I cannot verbalize (Romans 8:26), that I will not be weary of earnestly endeavoring to express my desires to God. Resolved, to exercise myself in this, all my life long, with the greatest openness, of which I am capable of, to declare my ways to God, and lay open my soul to him: all my sins, temptations, difficulties, sorrows, fears, hopes, desires, and every thing, and every circumstance.

16. Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.

## Service to God & Industriousness

1. Resolved, never to lose one moment of time; but improve it the most profitable way possible.
2. Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live and to foremost serve God rather than man (Eph. 6:6-8)
3. Resolved, when I think of any theological difficulty to be solved, immediately to do what I can towards solving it, if circumstances do not hinder.
4. Resolved, to be endeavoring to find fit recipients of charity and liberality.
5. Resolved, to frequently take some deliberate action, which seems most unlikely to be done, for the glory of God.
6. Resolved, never to allow any pleasure or grief, joy or sorrow, nor any affection at all, any degree of affection, any circumstance relating to it, but what helps advance the Kingdom of God.
7. Resolved, that I will not give way to a lazy spirit which I find relaxes my mind from being fully and fixedly set on the work of Christ—no matter what excuse I may have.

## Holiness

1. Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life.
2. Resolved, if I take delight in anything as a gratification of pride, or vanity, or on any such account, immediately to capture it to the obedience of Christ.
3. Resolved, to inquire every night, as I am going to bed, wherein I have been negligent, what sin I have committed, and wherein I have denied myself.
4. Resolved, never to speak anything that is ridiculous, joking, or matter of frivolity on the Lord's Day.
5. Resolved, never to do anything of which I so much question the lawfulness of an act or an omission.
6. Resolved, that no other end but faith in God will have any influence at all on any of my actions; and that no action shall be inconsistent with that faith.
7. Resolved, to think much on all occasions of my own dying, and of the common circumstances which attend death.
8. Resolved, constantly, with the utmost diligence, and the strictest scrutiny, to be looking into the state of my soul, that I may know whether I have truly an interest in Christ or not; that when I come to die, I may not have any reason to repent.
9. Resolved, I will act so as I think I shall be judged when I come into the future world.
10. Resolved, to endeavor to my utmost to act as I can think I should do, if, I had already seen the happiness of heaven, and the torments of hell.

## Holiness (Continued)

11. Resolved, never to give over, or in the least to slacken, my fight with my corruptions, however unsuccessful I may be.
12. Let there be something of benevolence, in all that I speak.
13. Resolved, to confess frankly to myself all that which I find in myself, either infirmity or sin; and, if it be what concerns religion, also to confess the whole case to God, and beg earnestly for needed help.

## Relationships

1. Resolved, to act, in all respects, both speaking and doing, as if nobody had been so wicked as I, and as if I had committed the same sins, or had the same infirmities or failings as others. I will let their life prove only an occasion of my confessing my own sins and misery to God.
2. Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge.
3. Resolved, never to suffer the least emotions of anger towards irrational beings.
4. Resolved, never to speak evil of anyone, so that it shall tend to his dishonor, more or less, upon no account except for some real good.
5. Resolved, never to do any thing, which if I should see in another, I should consider a just occasion to despise him, or to think less of him.
6. Resolved, never to say anything at all against anybody, except when it is perfectly agreeable to the highest degree of Christian honor and of love to mankind. In doing so, I will examine my humility and my own faults and failings and be reminded of the golden rule.
7. Resolved, to do always what I can towards making, maintaining, and preserving peace, when it can be done without hindering other respects.
8. Resolved, in communicating to others never to speak any thing but the pure and simple truth.
9. Resolved, never to bring any reason for worry or anxiousness to my father or mother. Resolved to bring no personal consequence in the least by even as much as my tone of voice, or motion of my eye: and to be especially careful of it with respect to any of our family.
10. Resolved, not only to refrain from an air of dislike, irritability, and anger in conversation, but to exhibit an air of love, cheerfulness and gentleness.
11. Resolved, when I am most conscious of anger as it arises within me, that I will strive most to feel to manifest good nature.
12. Resolved, that I will endeavor always to keep a kind attitude and an air of acting and speaking in all places, and in all companies, with gentleness except it should so happen that duty requires otherwise.

## Discipline

1. Resolved, when I feel pain, to think of the pains of martyrdom, and of hell.
2. Resolved, to live so, at all times, as I think is best in my abilities, and when I am focused clearly on the gospel, and on a dying world.
3. Resolved, never to do any thing that I would be afraid to be doing if I expected the Lord to return within the hour.
4. Resolved, to maintain the strictest discipline, in eating and drinking.
5. Resolved, whenever I do any overt evil action, to trace it back, till I come to the root cause. I will then carefully endeavor to obliterate that evil within me and pray with all my might against the origin of it.
6. Resolved, to cast away such things, as I find do lessen my assurance of faith.
7. Resolved, to be strictly and firmly faithful to my trust, that a faithful man is rare to find (Proverbs 20:6). I pray that it may not be partly fulfilled in me.
8. Resolved, to inquire every night, before I go to bed, whether I have acted in the best way I possibly could, with respect to eating and drinking.
9. Resolved, to ask myself, at the end of every day, week, month and year, wherein I could possibly, in any respect, have done better.

## Discipline (Continued)

10. Resolved, to endeavor, to my utmost, to deny whatever is not most agreeable to a good, and universally sweet disposition: benevolent, quiet and peaceable, contented and easy, compassionate and generous, humble and meek, submissive and helpful, diligent and hard-working, loving and patient, moderate and forgiving.
11. Resolved, that I will live in a manner as I can think I shall hope I had done, supposing I live to old age.
12. Whenever I hear anything spoken in conversation of any person, if I think it would be praiseworthy in me, resolved to endeavor to imitate it.
13. Resolved, to examine myself strictly whenever my feelings begin to appear in the least out of order.
14. Resolved, after bad circumstances, to inquire, how they have improved my life and what I have learned from them.
15. Resolved, always to do that, which I shall wish I had done when I see others do it.

More information about the life and writings of Jonathan Edwards can be accessed on the internet at: [www.jonathanedwards.com](http://www.jonathanedwards.com)