

2021 *SUPER SIXTIES* JANUARY 2021

*Happy
New year
2021*



THE GIFT

Soon in your hand will be placed a priceless gift. Look at it closely. There is no price mark stamped on it. It cannot be weighed, because no scale can balance its value. A king's ransom in comparison is as nothing yet it is given to beggar and prince alike. The gift asks only that it be used wisely and well.

This jewel, rare and unique, is not displayed in any shop window. It cannot be purchased, cannot be sold. No other treasure holds the possibilities this gift offers--none can surpass its golden splendor.

Of all gifts, this is one of the most precious. It has been offered many times before; today, from the depths of a limitless love it will be given again. It will be left to you to find the golden thread running through it. Only with great care will the jewel retain its luster. Carelessness, ingratitude, and selfishness will tarnish the brilliance, break the unspoiled thread mar the perfection.

Guard it closely, lest through weak fingers it slip from the hand. Look often at its flawless beauty. Accept it as it is offered from the heart of the giver. Consider it the most treasured of possessions, for of all the gifts it is by far the greatest. It is the gift of the New Year.



RESOLUTIONS FOR EVERY YEAR

Have you made your New year's resolution for 2021? Before you do, it might be well to analyze how you did with the 2020 resolutions.

My resolution offers three options: forget them, ignore them, or feel guilty about my failure to fulfill them. One way to avoid facing these options is to make resolutions that are so humorously ridiculous that failure is impossible, such as: "I resolve not to celebrate my 21st birthday in 2021."

I wonder why we have this annual ritual. Wouldn't it be better to make lifetime resolutions, rather than deal with temporary or limited ones? Or, wouldn't it make more sense to adopt some eternal resolutions for our lives?

Here's a few possibilities, which are about 3,000 years old, from the Psalms. Perhaps you would like to make some of them your resolutions. I am including a box for you to check your choices.

- I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about (Psalm 3:6).
- I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: (Psalm 7:17).
- I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works (Psalm 9:1).
- I will declare thy name unto my brethren: (Psalm 22:22).
- I will not sit with the wicked (Psalm 26:5).
- I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy (Psalm 31:7).
- I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1).
- I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people (Psalm 35:18).

- I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever (Psalm 45:17).
- I will trust in thee (Psalm 55:23).
- I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows (Psalm 66:13).
- I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more (Psalm 71:14).
- I will hear what God the LORD will speak: (Psalm 85:8).
- I will walk in thy truth: (Psalm 86:11).
- I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust (Psalm 91:2).
- I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being (Psalm 104:33).
- I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word (Psalm 119:15-16).
- I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: (Psalm 139:14).
- I will declare thy greatness (Psalm 145:6).

May God bless your New Year,

John Campbell

A SPARKLING NEW YEAR 2021

A sparkling New Year is just beginning;
It lies before me undamaged and clean;
I will not mar it's blessings with worry
Or allow complaining to intervene.

I'll strive not to spoil its grace and beauty
With disapproval and discontent
Or harm its glow with selfishness and greed
And others' wonderful fortune resent.

For this new year happily beckons to me,
And I'll cheer as it's many treasures unfold;
All glory and it's splendor and beauty
And partake of its challenges untold.



Father Abraham's JANUARY QUIZ

"10 Key Events"

1. BIRTH OF JESUS - How many children had Mary had before she gave birth to Jesus?
2. BIRTH OF JESUS - Who said to whom, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord"?
3. BIRTH OF JESUS - Fill in the missing words: "They came with haste, and found _____ and _____, and the _____ lying in a manger.
4. VISIT OF THE WISEMEN - True or false? There were only three wise men.
5. VISIT OF THE WISEMEN - Where were the wise men when they asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews"?
6. VISIT OF THE WISEMEN - What were the three gifts the wise men gave to Jesus?
7. DEATH OF HEROD - How did Joseph know that Herod was set to kill Jesus?
8. DEATH OF HEROD - Where did Joseph, Mary and Jesus flee as refugees?
9. DEATH OF HEROD - After Joseph heard that Herod was dead, where did he settle down with Mary and Jesus?
10. JESUS AT TWELVE IN THE TEMPLE - True or false? Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem because he wanted to have a good look at Herod's magnificent temple.

Answers:

1. none. She was a virgin. 2. The angel, to the Shepherds. 3. Mary, Joseph, babe 4. False. We are not told how many wise men there were. 5. In Jerusalem 6. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh 7. The Lord warned him in a dream. 8. Egypt 9. Nazareth 10. False. Jesus listened and asked questions of the teachers in the temple courts (Luke 2:41-50)



We spent half our lives accumulating things and the other half trying to find room for them in the attic.

It's amazing how engaged a conversation can become when you ask one little question "How are you?" It is as irretrievable as the letter you just dropped in a US mailbox.

**I clip the grocery coupon,
To stretch my dollars of late;
And try to match them with my needs,
Before the expiration dates.**

Shopping consigns me
Too early to defeat:
I have comfortable shoes.
But uncomfortable feet.

Among life's many questions
Is one that still confounds:
Why do sweets weighing an ounce
Increase one's weight by pounds?

**When thoughts don't come as easily
As once they did to me,
To think that I am getting old
Is pure absurdity.
It's time there's snow upon my roof,
My steps a bit confused,
But I'm not getting old, you see,
I'm just a little used.**

Quotes Worth Remembering

Having chosen our course, without guilt and with purpose, let us renew our trust in God and go forward without fear and with manly hearts.
~Abraham Lincoln

If you cannot do great things, you can at least do small things and a great way! ~Unknown

I went out to find a friend
But could not find one there;
I went out to be a friend
And found friends were everywhere!



Not does your life win praise of man, but do you receive praise from God.

~Pastor Norris Belcher

I would be quiet Lord,
Nor tease or fret;
Not one small need of mine
Wilt thou forget.

~Julia L. R. Dorr

I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible. ~D. L. Moody

None are more unjust in their judgments of others than those who have a high opinion of themselves.
~Charles Spurgeon

FORGET

Forget the old year's sorrows;
forget it's lonely days.
Forget it's toils and hardships, it's
dark and weary ways.
Brood not o'er blighted prospects,
o'er hours with sadness rife;
Look forward to the new year,
its hope, its cheer, its life.

A gracious boon, this new year,
unsoiled by sin or care;
No gem of earth so precious,
no springtime mourn more fair;
It's worth can ne'er be measured;
it's charms can ne'er be told;
But free, how free this new year,
alike to young and old.

How shall I spend this new year?
The answer's quickly given;
"Make each succeeding moment
a stepping-stone toward Heaven;
Reach out thy hand in blessing
to suffering ones below;
'Twill keep the cruse from failing
and cause thy are heart to glow.

"Send portions to the needy;
go share another's grief;
Point upward to the Master,
who offers sweet relief;
Sound out the gospel message,
win lost ones to the fold-
Thus spent, the joys of new year
on earth can ne'er be told."



NEW YEAR IMPRESSIONS

Like a new snowfall blanketing the ground
stretching far before us
beautiful, without footprints
or tracks-
awaiting the steps of man and beast
to make their impressions on the white sea,
the New Year stretches forward
unencumbered with preimposed pathways through
the fresh new moments
and days-
awaiting our choices of direction
to make their impressions on the months beckoning us.
Like an observer viewing the scene
of a new fallen beauty
breathes a sigh of joy
and peace
before stepping into the feathery gift
to make a pathway through the virgin snow,
we can catch a glimpse of opportunities
in the upcoming year, and we
gasp with excitement
and eagerness
before stepping into the time-filled gift
to make a roadway toward new hopes and dreams.
~Lois Anne Williams

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

1. Live a simple life. Simple things are best and nourish the soul.
2. Think constructively, act calmly.
3. Be grateful for God's love and goodness and His constant care.
4. Master your moods. Do not let evil or depressing thoughts overcome you.
5. Give. Remember Emerson's: "The only thing you ever really keep are the things you give away."
6. Put God first in your life and your home.
7. Remember others. Be concerned for their welfare, their happiness, and their peace of mind.
8. Cultivate a hobby: shell collecting, refinishing old furniture, art, music, family history, or whatever. Be a more interesting and relaxed person.
9. Have a goal and try to achieve it.
10. Pray!
11. Laugh - find the humor in life and share it.
12. Love! The gift of love is the greatest gift of all.

~Carol Bessent Hayman

SNOW PRAYER

Lord, I like a winter day such as this. The unexpected snow covers the fallen leaves and blends the unadorned branches. The sky hangs beige-gray with promise of more snow.

The highway lies quiet. Only an occasional whirling of tires breaks the serene silence. Birds busy themselves seeking food. Thank You for making me wise enough to buy seed yesterday. Now they know I am their friend.

A Scarlet Cardinal dips his wing in greeting. A goldfinch promises coming sunshine in his feathers. A snowbird is dressed in black tie and tails for this first banquet.

The quiet time, the hidden productive season for nature and for me, has arrived. Dear Lord, prepare my heart and my life. Just as You work mysteriously undercover preparing for spring, make me ready for new shoots of interest. Strengthen my roots of faith. Prepare me for possible crop failure. Thank You, Lord, that my sins which were many are now as white as the new fallen snow.

Thank you that the harsh gray skies of my former hopes have known the soft kiss of a sunrise and the sweetness of a new day.

Thank You, Lord.

~Maxine Dowd Jensen

WINTER TIME SURPRISE

A lovely winter time surprise,
Happened as I slept last night.
Quietly the snowfall came,
Turning everything
a sparkling white.

The rolling fields, the fallen leaves,
The rumble, and the branches bare
Were covered by
the mounds of snow,
Spreading awesome beauty
everywhere.

What a picture of salvation's plan
The pure white snow reveals.
How Christ in love breathtakingly
Our darkest sins conceals.

~Patricia R. Glover



WALK TO OUR FATHER

I found him on the porch that cold night, bravely fighting off the wrath of winter. I discovered that this was not a puppy, but an older dog who was earlier lost or abandoned. He did not make a sound but gazed at me with his sad, black eyes. I saw myself in him that night-lonely, frightened, and filled with fear.

The next morning I let him out, and he ran to the opposite side of the pond. I called him to come back. Instead of going around the pond, he stepped onto thin, black ice. I held my breath and watched his careful steps across the pond. When he came into my arms, we both felt a surge of relief.

Each day we face obstacles. By taking steps to our Father, we also can survive.

~JoAnne S. Walters

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Another year is dawning;
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee;

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness,
In the shining of Thy face;

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above;

Another year of progress;
Another year of praise;
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days;

Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year is dawning!
Dear Father let it be,
On earth or else in Heaven,
Another year for Thee.

~Francis R. Havergal

TIME

*Time is a treasure,
So view it, my soul!
Keep all its spending
'Neath watchful control;
Employ each moment
In God's holy fear,
And He will ensure thee
A Happy New Year.*

**May your year be fruitful,
prosperous,
a joyous one in the lord.**

Winter can be a lonely time. The cheerful sun of summer and thrilling autumn harvest moons have given way to cloudy days and long, cold nights.

Even the holidays can bring a touch of loneliness as we long for treasured family and friends no longer with us.

When loneliness closes in on me, Psalms 18:2 brightens the night like a glowing candle.

"The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

WINTER JOY

The howling winds, the frosty pane,
Tell us winter's here again.
Sparkling snowflakes whirling down
Adorn the trees in silver gown.
Frozen ponds have skaters there
Who exhale steam through frigid air.
The heated house is so enticing
When coming in from car de-icing.
We now can rest from garden chores
And read a book while fire roars.
Smiling snowmen dot the town
While rooftops flaunt their snowy crown.
Winter beauty's one more reason
To appreciate the season,
But the greatest joy that it does bring
Is dreaming of the glories of spring.
~Iris L. Sokol

JOY IN LITTLE THINGS

There is great joy in little things-
A phone call from a friend,
A friendly note on a birthday card
My grandson thought to send,
A fresh-baked loaf of sourdough bread
A neighbor dropped by to give.
The flowers in the well-kept yards
On the pretty street where I live.
Some may struggle for bigger prizes,
The happiness that great success brings,
For wealth or power, for tremendous fame,
But give me the little things. ~Flo Bell



THE YEAR'S RENAISSANCE

The year drew near its ending,
A new year soon would start.
Alone in meditation,
I was moved to search my heart.

At length I fell to wondering
Just what might lie ahead.
Would next year be a good one
Or one to fear and dread?

My thoughts grew apprehensive;
Fear whispered in my ear:
"The road ahead is all untried,
And there is much for you to fear.

"Its cares may be too much for you,
Alone, with substance small,
With want and sorrow everywhere,
Much trouble may you befall."

I felt depressed and anxious
And might have shed some tears
Had I not heard another voice
Speak softly to my ears:

"Life will not always be easy,
And your future is yet unknown,
But I am with you always,
And you will never walk alone."

I recognized my Savior's voice;
He stilled the voice of fear.
And I arose with confidence
To hail the coming year!

-Roberta Hawthorne

A NEW YEAR

A new year is beginning
With a chance to start anew,
And, Lord, I want to be my best
As I live and work for You.
Won't You help me as I begin again
To be faithful and to see
All the many wonderful blessings
You have in store for me.
~Barbara Domingues

A PLAN OF ACTION by Eloise Neel

Here we go again. Another year is ahead of us - uncharted, empty, just waiting to be filled.

Helen Keller said, "the greatest tragedy in life is people who have sight but no vision." Do you have a vision for this new year? If you don't, you'll most likely repeat the mistakes of the past.

It is good to make resolutions and to try and clean up our act, so to speak. However, I have found I do much better with the plan of action, not just a list of things to improve.

My vision for this new year is to work on improving my health by walking daily. This will not only improve my physical health but will allow more quiet time with God, thus improving my spiritual health. I have mapped out a route that allows me plenty of quiet places to visit with God, scenery to sketch, and a stop along the way for coffee. Now I know this is a small-scale vision, but it's a start.

Have you thought about what you would like to accomplish in the future? Maybe you would like to join a small group or start one of your own. Perhaps there's a ministry you would like to participate in or learn more about. Maybe there's a class you would like to take; after all, we're never too old to learn.

There's no time like the present to start a plan of action for the future. Let's step out into the future with a vision. Go for it!

A GLAD NEW YEAR

*The door of a new year is now open.
The eyes of a torn and troubled world
Pure longingly within, ever yearning
To see the flag of peace unfurled.*

*As moments mark the count of time,
Winter warmth is as a welcome overture.
The cold and biting winds made chill
But spring's resurrection is always sure.*

*Whatever awaits beyond this present
Of joy, of sorrow, of stress and pain,
His Holy presence still abides within
To guide, comfort, and sustain.*

*A glad new year is boldly beckoning,
And HOPE is ALIVE with JOY!
~Louise Barker Barnhill*

CHUCKLES FOR JANUARY CHUCKLES FOR JANUARY CHUCKLES FOR JANUARY CHUCKLES FOR JANUARY

Lady (standing in the middle of a busy street): "Officer, can you tell me how to get to the hospital?"
Policeman: "Just stand where you are."

"Your pulse is as steady as a clock," announced the doctor to the worried patient

"Well, but you've got your hand on my wrist watch," he replied.

Doctor: "What do you dream about at night?"

Bubba: "Baseball."

Doctor: "Don't you dream about anything else?"

Bubba: "No, just about baseball, night after night."

Doctor (puzzled): "Don't you ever dream about food?"

Bubba: "What? And miss my turn at bat?"

Jack: "What does he do for a living?"

Jim: "He used to be a surgeon, but he had to quit."

Jack: "Too hard on his nerves?"

Jim: "No, too much inside work."

One morning a boy asked his father how wars started. "Well," said his dad, "Suppose America quarreled with England and-"
"But," interrupted the mother, "America would never quarrel with England."

"I know," said the father, "But I'm only talking about a hypothetical instance."

"You are misleading the child," protested the mother.

"No, I am not," shouted the father.

"Never mind, Dad," put in the boy. "I think I know how wars start."

WE HEARD FROM YOUR GRANDKIDS AGAIN

"Please, sir," said Don nervously as he came into the classroom, "Should I be punished for something I haven't done?"

"Of course not," said the teacher kindly.

"Thank you, sir," said the boy with a sigh of relief. "I haven't done my homework."

CAPSULES OF WISDOM

1. The mechanic says my old car is suffering from rattle fatigue.
2. Wrinkles are hereditary, parents get them from their children.
3. Middle age is that time of life when a woman won't tell her age and a man won't act his.
4. A man's hair and truth are just about his best friends, but even the best of friends fall out.
5. Save for a rainy day and a new tax comes along and soaks you.
6. Today it isn't facing the music that hurts, it's listening to it.
7. Housework is something you do that nobody notices unless you don't do it.
8. The trouble of having a doctor who doesn't make house calls is you have to be pretty healthy to find out how sick you are.
9. Remember that good old days when "swingers" were people who relaxed on the front porch.
10. Inflation hasn't ruined everything. A dime still can be used as a screwdriver.