

New Beginnings for a New Year



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THE **7** HABITS OF
HIGHLY
EFFECTIVE
PEOPLE

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40 million
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Stephen R. Covey

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Romans 3:23 (KJV) — 23 For
all have sinned, and come short
of the glory of God;

Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV) — 9 The
heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately wicked: who can
know it?

Job 14:4 (KJV) — 4 Who
can bring a clean thing out of
an unclean? not one.

Romans 8:7 (KJV) — 7 Because
the carnal mind is enmity against
God: for it is not subject to the law
of God, neither indeed can be.

Joshua 2:1 (KJV) — 1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

Joshua 2:10 (KJV) — 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

Joshua 2:11 (KJV) —11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

Matthew 1:5–6 (KJV) — 5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; 6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

Acts 22:4–5 (KJV) — 4 And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

5 As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

Acts 26:10 (KJV) — 10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.

Hebrews 12:2–3 (KJV) — 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction {Greek: hostility] of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Genesis 1:1 (KJV) — 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Psalm 33:6, 9 (KJV) — 6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. . . . 9 For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

Genesis 1:27 (KJV) — 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Ezekiel 36:26 (KJV) — 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

John 15:1–3 (KJV) — 1 I am the true vine,
and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every
branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh
away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he
purgeth it, that it may bring forth more
fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word
which I have spoken unto you.

John 15:4–6 (KJV) — 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:7–9 (KJV) — 7 If ye abide in me,
and my words abide in you, ye shall ask
what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear
much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As
the Father hath loved me, so have I loved
you: continue ye in my love.

John 6:63 (KJV) — 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

1 Corinthians 6:17 (KJV) — 17 But he
that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

Isaiah 40:13 (KJV) — 13 Who
hath directed the Spirit of the
LORD, or being his counsellor hath
taught him?

Isaiah 40:13 (KJV) — 13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

Romans 11:34 (KJV) — 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor

Philippians 2:5 (KJV) — 5 Let
this mind be in you, which was also
in Christ Jesus:

Hebrews 4:12 (KJV) — 12 For the word of God is quick [living], and powerful [full of energy], and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

discerner = κριτικός *kritikos* where
our word *critic* comes from.

John 1:1 (KJV) — 1 In the
beginning was the Word, and the
Word was with God, and the
Word was God.

John 15:10 (KJV) — 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Matthew 14:14–16 (KJV) — 14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. 15 And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. 16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

Matthew 14:17–19 (KJV) — 17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. [John 6:8–9] 18 He said, Bring them hither to me. 19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

Matthew 14:19–21 (KJV) — 19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. 20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

1 Corinthians 2:16 (KJV) — 16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV) — 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Many are inquiring, “How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?” You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections.

The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair.

What you need to understand is the true force of the will.

This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice.

Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him.

You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.

(Steps to Christ, p. 47.1)

Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now choose to be Christians. (*Steps to Christ*, p. 47.2)

Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith. (*Steps to Christ*, p. 48.1)

Revelation 3:20 (KJV) — 20 Behold,
I stand at the door, and knock: if any
man hear my voice, and open the door,
I will come in to him, and will sup with
him, and he with me.

