

Week beginning: 7th Jan 2007

## Theme: 'New Life' resolutions (Haggai week-1)

---

**Welcome:** What is the craziest New Year resolution you ever made? Did you keep it? Does it really matter if we abide by our New Year's resolutions or not?

**Worship:** Don't forget to worship in your cell meeting. It is through worship that we draw near to God! Has someone in the cell got a favourite hymn of praise on their heart this week? – Sing it! *Also – read together this prayer then discuss the following:*

**Take possession of my heart, O Lord,  
that being created by you,  
I may ever live for You;  
that being created for You,  
I may ever act for Your Glory;  
and being redeemed by You,  
I may ever render to You what is Yours.**

**John Wesley**

### **Discuss –**

1. Wesley's prayer of commitment contains three resolutions that he is making to God – what are they?
2. Why do Christians willingly undertake to make 'New Life' resolutions when they give their lives to Christ?
3. How important is it that we keep our resolutions and promises to God? Why?

**Word:** God used Cyrus – a Persian king – to tell the Jews what He wanted them to do. (Read Ezra 1:2-3) Not all God’s people accepted! And the ones who did soon became pre-occupied with their own life requirements and failed to keep their resolution and complete the building of the temple. (Read Haggai 1:1-8)

**Teaching Slot:** Some people spend their lives waiting for God to tell them what to do, often they become frustrated and discouraged when they think that they cannot hear Him! But God delivers His message in many different ways (Cyrus wasn’t even a Jew!) Through Jesus the whole Christian world has already been given **very clear directions from God.**

- i. Love your neighbours as yourself (Matt 19:19)
- ii. Help build the Kingdom of God (Luke 10:9)
- iii. Tell out the Good News! (Luke 9:2)

In Ezra and Haggai’s time not all God’s people chose to make the difficult journey from Babylon to Jerusalem – and not all God’s people are on the march today! It’s a difficult road but God never leaves us to travel it alone. If we make the resolution to enthrone Christ as the Lord of our lives God will help us as we earnestly seek to do His will. Through His Holy Spirit He will give us the strength to fulfill His purpose for our lives and the wisdom to organize our priorities properly.

**Witness** – Read this prayer

**Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do Your work.  
I give You my feet to walk in Your way.  
I give You my eyes to see the world as You see it.  
I give You my tongue to speak Your praise  
And I give You myself that You may live and pray in me.  
Amen.**

Now meditate upon the prayer in silence for a few moments. Remember the wounds in **His** Hands and Feet. Remember **His** Eyes as they gaze through the ages and look into **your** eyes. And remember **His** Tongue as He utters the words ‘It is finished’.

Why not try to say this prayer every morning of the week ahead? As you walk out the door to work or drop the children off at school – whatever you are doing – take this prayer with you. Let’s try to keep our resolution to love and obey the giver of New Life.