

NEW YEAR PRAYER (2019)

1Pt 5:10-11

Banská Bystrica, 1. January 2019

Ὁ δὲ θεὸς πάσης χάριτος, ὁ καλέσας ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν αἰώνιον αὐτοῦ δόξαν ἐν Χριστῷ [Ἰησοῦ], ὀλίγον παθόντας αὐτὸς καταρτίσει, στηρίξει, σθενώσει, θεμελιώσει. ¹¹ αὐτῷ τὸ κράτος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, ἀμήν

1Pt 5:10-11 And after you have **suffered** a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his **eternal glory** in Christ, will himself **restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish** you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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4. CONFIRMATION
5. STRENGTHENING
6. ESTABLISHING

0. INTRODUCTION:

Chambers:

The Vices and Virtues of Vowing. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou vowest. (Ecclesiastes 5:4 rv)

At New Year time we hear much of vowing. Solomon's advice is—"Don't vow; because if you make a vow, even in ordinary matters, and do not fulfil it, you are the worse for it." To make a promise may simply be a way of shirking responsibility. Never pile up promises before men, and certainly not before God. It is better to run the risk of being considered indecisive, better to be uncertain and not promise, than to promise and not fulfil. "Better is it that thou shouldst not vow, than that thou shouldst vow and not pay"(Ecclesiastes 5:5).

The vices of vowing outweigh the virtues, because vowing is built on a misconception of human nature as it really is. If a man had the power to will pure will it would be different, but he has not. There are certain things a man cannot do, not because he is bad, but because he is not constituted to do them. We make vows which are impossible of fulfilment because no man can remain master of himself always; there comes a time when the human will must yield allegiance to a force greater than itself, it must yield either to God or to the devil.

Modern ethical teaching bases everything on the power of the will, but we need to recognise also the perils of the will. The man who has achieved a moral victory by the sheer force of his will is less likely to want to become a Christian than the man who has come to the moral frontier of his own need. It is the obstinate man who makes vows, and by the very fulfilment of his vow he may increase his inability to see things from Jesus Christ's standpoint. When a man is stirred, either by joy or sorrow, or by the seasons of the year, he is apt to make vows which are beyond the possibility of human power to keep.

Jesus Christ bases the entrance to His Kingdom not on a man's vowing and making decisions, but on the realisation of his inability to decide. Decisions for Christ fail because the bedrock of Christianity is ignored. It is not our vows before God that tell, but coming to God exactly as we are, in all our weakness, and being held and kept by Him. Make no vows at this New Year time, but look to God and bank on the Reality of Jesus Christ. (*God's Workmanship*)

[CHAMBERS] All my fresh springs shall be in Thee. Psalm 87:7(Our Lord never patches up our natural virtues, He remakes the whole man on the inside. "Put on the new man"—see that your natural human life

puts on the garb that is in keeping with the new life. The life God plants in us develops its own virtues, not the virtues of Adam but of Jesus Christ. Watch how God will wither up your confidence in natural virtues after sanctification, and in any power you have, until you learn to draw your life from the reservoir of the resurrection life of Jesus. Thank God if you are going through a drying-up experience! (*My Utmost for His Highest*)

1. GOD OF ALL GRACE

- (αὐτῷ τὸ κράτος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας)
- **Ps 100:4** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! (בְּאוֹ שַׁעֲרָיו בְּתוֹרָה הַצְרַחְתִּי בְּתֵהֵלָה הוֹדוּ לֵי בְרַכְוֹ שִׁמּוֹ)
- **Ps 116:17** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.
- ... of all **grace**
- ...who has **called** you
- → thanksgiving for time, peace, opportunity...

2. A LITTLE SUFFERING

- (ὀλίγον παθόντας)
- **1Pt 4:1** Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking... (Χριστοῦ οὖν παθόντος σαρκὶ καὶ ὑμεῖς τὴν αὐτὴν ἔννοιαν ὀπλίσασθε)
- **Lk 21:19** By your **endurance** you will gain your lives (ἐν τῇ ὑπομονῇ ὑμῶν κτήσασθε τὰς ψυχὰς ὑμῶν.)
- → **for courage**
- → **for patience**
- → government(s);
- → **Korea; China... America!**

3. RESTORATION

- (καταρτίσει) mend, restore, set right, make complete (midd. strive for perfection 2Co 13:11); act. and midd. make, prepare, supply (Luk 6:40)
- **Ps 23:3** He restores my soul (נַפְשִׁי יִשְׁבֹּר)
- **Gal 6:1** if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness... (ἐὰν καὶ προλημφθῇ ἄνθρωπος ἕν τιμι παραπτώματι, ὑμεῖς οἱ πνευματικοὶ καταρτίζετε τὸν τοιοῦτον ἐν πνεύματι πραύτητος)
- → **damaged/hurting emotions**
- → **work/communion attitudes**
- → **sanctification**
- → **revival; unity in the Spirit**
- → **relationships in (our) church**

4. CONFIRMATION

- (στηρίζει) strengthen, make firm, establish; fix, set up (Luk 16:26); make a firm resolve (Luk 9:51)
- **Rom 1:11** For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you (ἐπιποθῶ γὰρ ἰδεῖν ὑμᾶς, ἵνα τι μεταδῶ χάρισμα ὑμῖν πνευματικὸν εἰς τὸ στηριχθῆναι ὑμᾶς,)
- **Lk 22:32** I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers (καὶ σύ ποτε ἐπιστρέψας στήρισον τοὺς ἀδελφούς σου)
- **2Pt 1:12** Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have (Διὸ μελλήσω ἀεὶ ὑμᾶς ὑπομνησκειν περὶ τούτων καίπερ εἰδότας καὶ ἐστηριγμένους ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ ἀληθείας)
- → knowledge of faith
- → **certainty**
- → spiritual gift/experience/preparedness

- → education; Christian upbringing;
- → Christian arguments for the truth of the Bible (apologetics)

5. STRENGTHENING

- (σθενώσαι) strengthen, make strong, cause to be more able
- **Zech 10:12** I will make them strong in the LORD, and they shall walk in his name (וְנַבְרָתִים בִּיהוָה וְנִשְׁמָוּ יְהוָה לְכֹכֵב)
- **Phil 4:13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (πάντα ἰσχύω ἐν τῷ ἐνδυναμοῦντί με.)
- **1Cor 4:20** For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power (οὐ γὰρ ἐν λόγῳ ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ ἀλλ' ἐν δυνάμει)
- → **spiritual power**
- → **Christians in key political/cultural/educational positions**
- → **job**
- → **wellbeing; health**

6. ESTABLISHING

- (θεμελιώσαι) provide with a foundation, found, lay the foundation of (Mat 7:25); figuratively, as providing a firm basis for belief or practice establish, strengthen, settle, cause to be firm and unwavering (1Pe 5:10)
- **1Cor 3:11** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (θεμέλιον γὰρ ἄλλον οὐδεὶς δύναται θεῖναι παρὰ τὸν κείμενον, ὅς ἐστιν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός.)
- **Mt 7:24-25** "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. (Πᾶς οὖν ὅστις ἀκούει μου τοὺς λόγους τούτους καὶ ποιεῖ αὐτούς, ὁμοιωθήσεται ἀνδρὶ φρονίμῳ, ὅστις ὠκοδόμησεν αὐτοῦ τὴν οἰκίαν ἐπὶ τὴν πέτραν. ²⁵ καὶ κατέβη ἡ βροχὴ καὶ ἦλθον οἱ ποταμοὶ καὶ ἔπνευσαν οἱ ἄνεμοι καὶ προσέπεσαν τῇ οἰκίᾳ ἐκείνῃ, καὶ οὐκ ἔπεσεν, τεθεμελίωτο γὰρ ἐπὶ τὴν πέτραν)
- **Col 1:23** ...you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard (ἐπιμένετε τῇ πίστει τεθεμελιωμένοι καὶ ἐδραῖοι καὶ μὴ μετακινούμενοι ἀπὸ τῆς ἐλπίδος τοῦ εὐαγγελίου οὐ ἠκούσατε)
- **Eph 3:17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love (κατοικῆσαι τὸν Χριστὸν διὰ τῆς πίστεως ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν, ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἑρριζωμένοι καὶ τεθεμελιωμένοι)
- → **deeper relationship with Jesus**
- → stronger ties with the Body of Christ – the church
- → the hidden ties with the unseen reality of God