

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. THE BIBLE

*If you want to know God's will, read God's will. The Bible is God's will.* Most of us have heard or even said, "I knew *about* God, but I didn't know *God*." Perhaps a greater problem today is that people do know God, but they don't know about Him. Personally, I've never known anyone whose life has changed in any significant way apart from the regular study of God's word. Read Psalm 1:1-3, 119:9-11 and 89-104; John 20:30-31; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Sample Resolution: This year I am going to read through The One Year Bible and memorize one scripture verse each month.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

## 12. PRAYER

*Prayer is hard work—but it is the only work that releases the power of the kingdom of God into our human actions.* A man interviewing for a position with our ministry asked "Are you a praying ministry?" His interviewer answered, "Yes." Then he said, "Just so there is no misunderstanding, what I'm asking is not whether you believe in prayer, but do you pray?" Let's not just believe in prayer—let's pray! Matthew 6:5-15; Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sample Resolution: I will spend time in prayer before making any major decision. I will begin each day with prayer.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

Business leader, author, and speaker, Patrick Morley helps men to think more deeply about their lives, to be reconciled with Christ, and to be equipped for a larger impact on the world.

© 1999. Patrick M. Morley. All rights reserved.



**Black Ceramic Man in the Mirror Coffee Mug #3100102 \$7**

*Enjoy your favorite beverage and perhaps get an opportunity to share your faith with other men.*

**Would you like three sample monthly issues of this complimentary newsletter or information about our dynamic, church based men's events and follow-up? Call us at 1-800-929-2536.**

*A Look in the Mirror™* is distributed at no charge to our ministry partners.

Additional copies are 25¢ each, with bulk pricing for large orders.

A custom binder containing all the back issues is available for \$19.

**MAN  
— IN THE —  
MIRROR**

180 Wilshire Blvd.  
Casselberry, FL 32707  
Catalog Orders: 1-800-929-2536 ext. 2  
For more info: (407) 331-0095 Fax: (407) 331-7839  
**www.maninthemirror.org**



# A LOOK IN THE MIRROR™

AN EQUIPPING NEWSLETTER FOR MEN

Number 62

## 12 Resolutions for the New Millennium: *A Personal Retreat*

Patrick Morley

I typed up my New Year's resolutions early this year—just in case we don't have electricity on January 1<sup>st</sup>! You may find the categories I came up with useful as you ponder your own transition into the new millennium.

Suggestion: Why not set aside a few hours one morning during the holidays for a personal retreat? Begin with prayer. Slowly proceed through the following twelve areas. Read the Scripture references. Read other Scriptures that come to mind. Make resolutions where appropriate. Invent additional areas of special interest to you.

### 1. SELF EXAMINATION

*Socrates said, "The unexamined life is not worth living."* One of our greatest problems when speeding through life is that we tend to lead unexamined lives. Many of us today are in what we might call a "structural hurry"—a fast pace is "structured" into our lives. The price of this pace is peace. Read Psalm 17:3, 26:1-12, 32:8, 139:1-24; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, 13:5.

Sample Resolution: I will take one Saturday morning each month to slow down, think more deeply about my life, and make needed changes based upon God's larger purpose.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. GOD

*There is a God we want, and there is a God who is. They are not the same God.* One day it hit me: Wishing God to be "the God I want" will not have one iota of impact on his unchanging nature. Our job is not to change God—it's to be changed by God. We must come humbly to the foot of the cross and negotiate the terms of a full "surrender" to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The turning point of our lives is when we stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is. Read Ps. 96:1-9; Ezekiel 1:25-28; Rev. 4, 5, 21, 22

Sample Resolution: I will intensify my search for the God of the Bible, rather than wishing God would be different.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. WIFE

*After God, but before all others, make your mate your top priority.* Easily the #1 problem men face as they step into the new millennium is that their marriages are not working the way God intended. When the party is over, the lights are low, and the kids are grown and gone, there will only be two rocking chairs sitting side by side. The two of you really are the only ones in this thing together.

Sample Resolution: I will prove by how I spend my time that my wife is the most important person in my life after God, but before all others.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. CHILDREN

*No amount of success at work can adequately compensate for failure at home.* So be your children's spiritual leader, greatest fan, encourager, cheerleader, champion, hero, mentor, and example. Pray for them. Spend time with them in ways they want to receive it—board games, outings, watching their sporting events. Tell each child every day, "I love you!" and "I'm proud of you!"—like God did in Matthew 3:17! Also read Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:23

Sample Resolution: I will rotate taking one child each week on a "fun date", tell each child I love them and I'm proud of them every day, and pray for them each day.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. WORK

*You don't have to work 70 hours a week to be successful.* Work is not merely a platform to do ministry—it is ministry. We need to see our work as a holy vocation, and do our work with uncompromising excellence as if we are doing it for the Lord Jesus himself—because we are! Read Genesis 1:27-28, 2:4-15, 3:17-19; Colossians 3:22-24

Sample Resolution: I will stop thinking of work as merely a "means" to other ends and begin to look for intrinsic value in the work I do.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. CHURCH

*A wily wolf doesn't attack the flock. He waits for a lone sheep to stray from the flock.* Here is a great irony: Generally speaking, the least involved people in church are the most needy. Yet the church is often organized to minister to the most involved members. The solution? If you are a needy person, get more involved (don't rail against the system). For the already involved, spend some time dreaming of ways to reach out to people on the fringe of your church. Read Hebrew 10:23-25

Sample Resolution: This year I will intentionally seek ways to be involved in my church.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 7. MINISTRY

*D. L. Moody once said, "The reward of service is more service."* We belong to Jesus. We have been bought with a price. He has a purpose for our lives. Let us each use our spiritual gift for the glory of God and faithfully serve him by loving and serving others. Read Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 4:9-11

Sample Resolution: This year I will gain a better understanding of my spiritual gifting, and ask my pastor for a way to use it.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 8. MONEY

*When the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month rolls around your landlord isn't looking for Jesus, he wants cash!* Money is very important. The problem, though, is to think that money will solve all of our problems. It is just as important to have a "conversion of the wallet" as it is a "conversion of the heart." Be generous. Be a steward. Read Matthew 6:24; 2 Corinthians 8 and 9; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Sample Resolution: This year I will tithe by faith and save five percent.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 9. HEALTH

*No one else can—nor should—take responsibility for our private lives.* Health is mental, emotional, physical, moral, and spiritual wholeness. It is a gift from God, but we must create proper balance. In addition to work and family, our private lives need proper rest, recreation, nutrition, and exercise.

Sample Resolution: This year I will study one subject completely foreign to me (e.g.; astronomy, interior design, sailing) and exercise 4 times each week.

My Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 10. FRIENDSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

*Most of us could name six pallbearers, but few of us have a friend we could call at 2:00 a. m.* Mother Theresa, once asked, "What is the greatest problem facing the world?" answered without hesitation: "Loneliness." You will be fortunate in life if you have three real friends. Accountability—a step deeper—means giving a few people permission to ask you how you are *really* doing. Read Proverbs 27:6,17; Eccl. 4:9-10; John 13:34; Gal. 6:1-2; Phil. 2:4

Sample Resolution: This year I will start an accountability group with men.