Each year millions of people make a New Year’s Resolution that promises to change their lives in some positive way. Webster’s defines the word *resolution* as: **the act or process of reducing to simpler form**: the act of analyzing a complex notion into simpler ones: the act of determining.

Let’s look at the first definition here and think of it this way: *What simple thing can I do this year to change my life for the better?* Most people set goals that are so unreachable they get discouraged and give up entirely. Don’t make a long list of things to change during the month of January. Instead, let me suggest one action that is simple yet the most life changing thing you will ever do!

To do this you will need to make a **determined effort** to read at least one scripture a day and spend at least 15 minutes in prayer. If you are already reading scripture and praying then increase this time to 30 minutes then 45, then up to at least on hour a day. The idea is to increase what you are already doing. Remember that praying to the Creator can be as simple as just talking to Him about anything. Through out the Bible there are scriptures that tell us that if we **seek then we will find**. (Examples: Deut. 4:29; Proverbs 8:17; Jeremiah 29:13; Mathew 7:7)

How can this change you? The Word of our Creator God is alive and speaks to your spirit, whether you are a Christian, a Jew, a Cherokee, Choctaw, Navajo, and yes, even if you are agnostic like I was! I was mentoring a young man in a correctional facility years ago that had a serious problem with anger. He didn’t even want me to talk to him “I hate white people” he said. When I informed him I was Cherokee the ice between us was broken.

I asked him to “**humor me**” and read one chapter of the book of Proverbs (Mishle) per day. The next week he informed me of a very bad incident between him and one of the correctional officers. When placed in a small room decorated with modern concrete block and one cold steel seat (toilet), he asked for a Bible. He read the entire book of Proverbs in one night! After reading the book he got on his knees and told God that “*if I can have this kind of wisdom, then you can have my life.*” This young man went on to be one of the leaders in our Bible study class! He developed a relationship with the Creator and as a result, freed his soul and gave him hope for a better life.

Do you want this same freedom; this same hope? The Creator's Word can change any situation you have. Read it and believe it. *Josh Groban* had a popular song last year on the secular radio stations. The chorus states “**you have everything you need, if you only believe.**” If the secular world knows this principle, then how much more should we as "believers" benefit from this knowledge?

Reading the Bible/Torah and time in prayer will give you everything you need – if you only believe!  Psalms 119:66; Mark 11:23-24.  

God Bless,  *Grandmother*
News from the Nations:

Cherokee Nation To Fund Community & Faith-Based Organizations
Tahlequah, Ok.– The Cherokee Nation is offering funding opportunities for Cherokee community and faith-based organizations who are interested in expanding or improving services to their members or area residents.

The project, known as the Cherokee Nation Compassion Capital Demonstration Fund Project, will issue up to 40 sub-awards, ranging from $5,000 to $25,000. A total of more than $354,000 has been budgeted for the project. The sub-awards will be given to organizations with strong service history, particularly in, but not limited to, alcohol and drug abuse, diabetes prevention, prisoner re-entry, marriage and family counseling and elderly services. Organizations selected must have basic management and bookkeeping skills or be engaged in training to develop and practice sound financial management. For more information about the Cherokee Nation Compassion Capital Project, contact Rick Gassaway at (918) 431-4173, or at (918) 822-2798.

Choctaw Nation – Chaplain’s Corner

The Chaplain of the Choctaw Nation gives us a look at the dangers of idolatry using the story of King Hezekiah: “One of the greatest dangers of the human heart is to have something, a material, something that we can see, to admire, to think so much of and to forget God. We can spend so much time and money on these things that it becomes an idol. Idolatry is something, or even someone that you think more of than you do of God…. King Hezekiah got all of the rulers and told them that they were going up to the house of the Lord, this was setting an example, and this is what they did. I believe this is what is needed among Christians today. Set an example. Hezekiah demonstrated in life and actions that he had turned to God. The world is watching Christians. A living sermon will have a greater testimony than an oral one. John writes in his first epistle, I John 1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. You can believe this promise and confess your sins today. Will you do that? Pray for our nation and for our leaders both governmental and spiritual. Pray for the Hurricane Katrina and Rita victims. Pray for our service men and women as they serve our country”....from the November, 2005 Bishinik Issue.

Navajo Nation - President’s Christmas Message

With all the controversy this year over eliminating the word “Christmas” it was refreshing to see a Christmas message from President Joe Shirley Jr. He encouraged his Navajo people to “Keep the Sacredness of Christmas by remembering the sacred words of the Bible. Turn inward and think about our relationship with the Creator and with each other as brothers and sisters.” Thank you President Shirley!
The Navajo/Israel Connection

After three years of hard work and research, an azure blue (Techelet) robe (left) of the Jewish High Priest has been completed by the Temple Institute. It was made from the instructions found in Exodus 28:31-35 and this is thought to be the blue of the Bible. What got my attention is that the master weaver, Yehudit Avraham, wove the robe using the Navajo “two-sided” weaving technique, according to the Israel National News (Arutz Sheva).

It is not known why she used the Navajo technique for a Jewish robe, especially one that hasn’t been constructed like this and worn by a High Priest in over 2,000 years.

Rabbi Wolf Brother in Israel has asked me to help research the connection between the Navajo’s and the Jews. We know of the Cherokee connection but not much has been written about the Navajos. The blue color was to remind Aaron of his closeness to God. If any of our readers has information on the Navajo weaving techniques/designs and the relationship to the Bible, please contact this ministry.

Blessed to be a Blessing

Breaking the Poverty Cycle

This will be a first in a series of Breaking the Poverty Cycle. Has the ways of your world or your religion told you that God wants you poor or oppressed? Do you find yourself living from pay check to pay check? When that paycheck doesn’t come or when they are tired of seeing their kids go hungry many have resorted to stealing from family or friends, then on to organized crime. It is a cycle. It is called the poverty cycle.

In Proverbs 10:14-15, King Solomon wrote “Wise people store up knowledge, But the mouth of the foolish is near destruction. The rich man’s wealth is his strong city; The destruction of the poor is their poverty. Solomon went on to say in verse 17: He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray. Poverty brings destruction! God delights in your prosperity! Psalms 35:27.

That’s right - God wants you to prosper! Do you know what Jesus’ first sermon was about? In Luke 4:18 He says "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors". NLT (emphasis mine) The first words of His first sermon was about preaching Good News to the poor! What is the best news a poor person can hear? The good news is if they listen and obey the Word of God, they will be poor no more! Give your life to Him. Give your whole life, not just one day a week and God will show you how to obtain this prosperity (Deut 8:18). You will break the poverty cycle in your family. Then you will be the one that can bless those in need. This is good medicine!