

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Most Important New Year's Resolution

By Karen Sue Nyquist

Wow! It's hard to believe that it is already a new year. Have you made any New Years' resolutions yet? Do you want to lose weight? Be a better person? Have better relationships? What about getting to know God? Now that's a relationship worth developing! Did you know that having a relationship with God has a lot of benefits?

1. The Benefits of Knowing God - "Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart" (Jeremiah 24:7). "But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight" (Jeremiah 9:24).



2. The Benefits of God's Love - "The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an **everlasting love**; Therefore with **lovingkindness** I have drawn you" (Jeremiah 31:3). "As the Father loved Me (*Jesus*), I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love" (John 15:9-10).

3. The Benefits of Forgiveness, Healing, and Protection - "Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who **forgives all your sins**, Who **heals all your diseases**, Who **redeems your life from destruction**, Who crowns you with **lovingkindness and tender mercies**" (Psalm 103:2-4).



4. The Benefit of Direction - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And **He shall direct your paths**" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

5. The Benefits of Hope, Joy, and Peace - "You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of **joy**; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11). "Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all **joy** and **peace** in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13). "... and the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).



6. The Benefits of Pleasing God - "For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will **beautify the humble** with salvation" (Psalm 149:4). "And what does the Lord require of you But to **do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?**" (Micah 6:8). "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness and peace and joy** in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17)

7. The Benefits of Comfort and Heaven - Jesus comforts us with these words, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house (*heaven*) are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Why not make a New Year's resolution to commit your life to





God and develop a relationship with Him? “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him (*Jesus*) should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:16-17) **God loves you S-O-O much!**

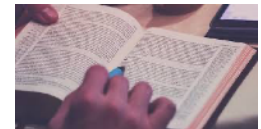
8. The Benefits of Adoption and Eternal Life - “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23). “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). “But as many as received Him, (*Jesus*) to them He gave the right to **become children of God**, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).

9. The Benefit of Salvation — We all need the Savior to save us from our sins and their related judgments. You can receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior by believing in Him and confessing that you want Him to be your Lord. “By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. . . Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” (1 John 4:13,15) “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ (*Messiah*) is born of God, and everyone who loves Him (*God the Father*) who begot also loves Him (*Jesus the Son*) who is begotten of Him” (1 John 5:1).

During this New Year Season, would you like to receive Jesus as Lord of you life? You can pray to Him now. **Here is a suggested prayer:** “Dear Jesus, forgive me for all my sins and cleanse me from all my sinful ways. I repent from trying to live my life my way and ask You to be my Lord. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Right now, Jesus, I open my heart and receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. I want to have a new vibrant relationship with God. AMEN!”

Name _____ Date _____

Now that you have asked Jesus into your heart, He will start revealing Himself to you. But to steadily improve your relationship with God, spend time with Him. Start talking (praying) to Him. Read His book, the Bible, where He reveals Himself even more clearly. Daily, ask Him to become involved in your life and request His advice, direction, even correction. Obey Him when He reveals His will to you. Spend time with others who love God too. Go to a good church where you can get baptized, filled with His Holy Spirit, feel His presence, they preach the Bible, and you can fellowship with other believers. We learn much about God from each other.



What a great New Year's resolution, to know God!



GOD BLESS YOU AND HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
NationTakers Ministries
 856 Cabrillo St., San Francisco, CA 94118
 Mail - P.O. Box 27475, San Francisco, CA 94127
 415-337-7027



info@nationtakers.com www.nationtakers.com

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