

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

John 3:16

About mid-January, I renewed my commitment to be in God’s word daily. And what a blessing it has been! As I read these words that are already familiar, God is revealing new meaning and applications to my life. Beyond that, I’m *accomplishing* far more than usual, *finding* increased patience in otherwise unnerving situations, and *experiencing* time for rest (yep, fully awake time in the day when I sit down with my kitty in my lap and gaze out the window!) Meanwhile, I am hugely aware of worldly things meant to distract me from my relationship with God. So I say to myself: “Self, this year, why not ‘give’ instead of ‘give up’? Why not try a Lenten “to-do” list which consists of:

- **Pause**...take time to be in God’s word daily; first thing in the morning, if possible;
- **Listen**...hear, not just read, what God has to teach me in His word;
- **Think**...of how I can apply God’s intentions for my day;
- **Pray**...enter into a conversation with God that lasts throughout the day;
- **Go**...dive into each day, equipped with the knowledge that I am not alone and that I have the love of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Redeemer and friend to share with others.

Hold firmly to your beliefs, Paul urged the Corinthians. You’ve taken your stand for Christ – don’t back off now. Hold firmly to your beliefs, Paul urges us. Get up every day, ready to take a stand for Jesus, no matter what the cost. Rejoice in your salvation anew, then share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.

Lord, Thank You for extending Your salvation to me. Help me to hold firmly to my faith. Give me boldness to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others who are desperately seeking good news. Amen.

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(Submitted in 2007)

