

**Fresh Fire Ministries**  
**The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver**

**“Unresolved Resolutions”**

*“Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.” Ecclesiastes 5:5 (NKJV)*

For the purpose of clarification our devotional passage does not hold within its context prosperity theology implications. Though it is often used to justify and even to manipulate the tenets of that particular persuasion, that it not the intent of this particular passage. A vow as it relates to our devotional passage is simply “an oral or voluntary promise to do something as an expression of consecration or devotion to the service of God.” As we all know these vows typically occur at the beginning of a new year. It must be reiterated that a vow that we pay to the Lord is not necessarily monetary. It is more of an expression of our commitment and conduct regarding how we respond to the things that He has ordained for our life. Then there are those instances were vows become emergency in nature. Our back is against the wall, we have fallen far and beyond desperation, so as a last ditch effort we began to verbalize a vow to the Lord to gain relief from our circumstance or to get Him to answer our prayer or grant us favor. This is where we must be careful. “You are snared by the words of your mouth; you are taken by the words of your mouth.” Proverbs 6:2 (NKJV) The application here is that we should be mindful of the promises that we make with our mouth, when in our heart we may not fulfill them or they become perpetually unresolved.

There are even relationship vows that we make that soon become invalidated because we lacked the genuine and sincere commitment to see them through to the end. Take this one for instance. Someone shares with you a life experience or challenge that they may be going through. In order to demonstrate your compassion, sensitivity, or express your Christian duty, you kindly say, “I will be praying for you.” However, after all is said and done. You have dealt with and confronted your own personal challenges and obstacles. Do you really pray for them? Or does it become something that only appears to be the right thing to say at the time? We must be honest; it does happen probably more than we would desire to admit. Perhaps it would be best if we just avoid making the vow at all. There are also business vows that we make. Spoken by our mouth and confirmed with our signature typically on a contract or other written agreement. Should we fail to fulfill this particular promise others stand to take a loss because of our failure to resolve the full and complete commitment witnessed by the contract. Our Christian character is at risk of oftentimes irreparable damage when this occurs.

Vows are a type of resolution. It is a pledge or an oath to do something that will ultimately bring God glory and honor. It should never be taken lightly. What we say with our mouth should be an expression of our heart. Only if our heart is not right with what we are saying will the vow or resolution be unfulfilled. While others may not know, care, or be impacted in any way whatsoever, we know, and surely God knows. The idea is just simply do what you say that you are going to do, and if you are not going to do it, don't say that you are. Resolutions that are maintained are a result of those that are birthed in our spirit and void of emotions or some other fleshly influence or desire. We should be absolutely certain that what we vow or resolve is something that we can be committed to and stay consistent with over an extended period of time or until God himself tells us otherwise. It should always be for God's glory and not our own. Not for personal recognition from others or an attempt for affirmation or to fill voids in our own life. Those will always be unresolved resolutions. With the heart they should be made, and with the heart they will be kept. “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:37 (NKJV)