



## **WOW: Word Of the Week**

### **Resolved**

**January 7, 2026**

If you start off buttoning your shirt wrong, you really need to start over!

I wear ties. I tie my own ties. If the knot starts off twisted and askew, you might as well start over! Same for getting the two ends of the tie tied to the right lengths!

If you take a wrong turn while driving in unfamiliar territory, you should do what the sweet voice of your navigator suggests, "At the first opportunity, make a U-turn." Have you ever thought, "Oh well, I have gone this far. I might as well keep going?" (Probably not—unless you are a man!) I don't know where we are, but we are making really good time!

Our WOW, resolved, is a Bible word/concept. What if the Prodigal Son had thought, "Going home is not a possibility. I cannot go back. I will just have to stay out here and starve"? What if Peter had given up after repeated failures?

The Bible says it again and again, in many different ways. "You can start over."

Traditionally, the beginning of a New Year is a time for starting over.

An older church song says in part, "I am resolved no longer to linger..." Things that are higher and nobler are calling. God calls us higher. God boosts us higher. God is our power, our energizing strength.

Again, our WOW to begin the new year is "resolved." A number of years ago, I began making new year plans rather than resolutions. Plans do not immediately blow up in your face the first time you stumble.

Plans encourage follow through, beginning again and again, keeping your eye on the goal.

The new year is underway, already 2% complete. Not much, but again, quite a bit.

I chose the word resolved for a reason. Alliteration! Resolved reminds me that because I am redeemed and reconciled in Jesus, my internal being is constantly renewed. It is not too late to make plans!

Resolve now to make plans!

Resolved to be constantly renewed! That is a resolution that has the valleys already built in. Life is not all mountaintops. We begin again and again—grateful for God's grace, gripped by God's glory, guided by God's goodness.

I pray for you a rich and rewarding 2026, confident in Christ, even when you stumble.