

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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Number 1

STRIVE IN '25

John Edwards

We are making our appeal to each of you to strive in 2025.

Oh, not to strive negatively “about words to no profit” (2 Tim. 2:14) or as those who engage in a war of words, to quarrel, wrangle, dispute for “...the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient” (2 Tim. 2:24).

But to strive positively, in the following ways:

STRIVE TO ENTER. Jesus taught, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Mt. 7:13-14). The text points out the fact that there are two:

Two gates: wide and strait.

Two ways: broad and narrow.

Two destinations: destruction and life.

Two groups of people: many and few.

To reach the right destination (life), we must be among the right group (few), on the right way (narrow), having entered in at the right gate (the strait). Where are you? The Lord made this appeal in Luke 13:24, “**Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto**

you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”

STRIVE TOGETHER. Paul instructed saints in Rome, “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye **strive together** with me in your prayers to God for me” (Rom. 15:30). To “strive together with” one is to help one; to be a partner. According to the text, this is done in prayers to God. The Corinthians were an example in this respect. “Ye also helping together by prayer for us...” (2 Cor. 1:11). Recognizing the great help of prayer, Paul would request, “Brethren, pray for us” (1 Th. 5:25). Likewise, we ask for your help. Pray for us.

Paul urged the Philippians to strive together. “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27). This is a plea for unity. Let’s all strive together, remembering “...if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mk. 3:25).

STRIVE LAWFULLY. It is written in 2 Timothy 2:5, “And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he **strive**

lawfully.” To “strive lawfully” is to follow the rules. The New King James says, “And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.” Many sportspersons have been disqualified from competition because of rule violations. It is no different spiritually. To receive the victor’s crown, we must follow the rules. “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”, the Lord said (Rev. 2:10). The Bible is our rule book. Paul wrote the Philippians “...let us walk by the same rule...” (Phil. 3:16). Galatians 6:16 records, “And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.” Many today are hearing things like: “The Bible is not a rule book for us to follow”; “The Bible is not meant to be a rulebook.” Another word for “rule” is “commandment” and “law”. The Bible is a book of commandments and laws. As such, it is a spiritual rule book. “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (Rev. 22:14). To enter into heaven, we must obey the rules set forth in the word of God!

Let’s all **STRIVE IN '25** — strive to enter, strive together, and strive lawfully!

I AM RESOLVED

Nicolas Edwards

This time of year it is common to hear about “New Year’s Resolutions.” We need to be a people that often examine ourselves, identify areas in our lives that need improving and make changes where needed. We especially need resolve spiritually! Resolve involves purpose, conviction and basically means firm determination to do or not to do something. Let’s consider some spiritual new year’s resolutions.

A BETTER DIET. One of the most common resolutions is that of eating better. We need a better diet spiritually! Increased hunger and thirst for righteousness (Mt. 5:6; Ps. 119:172). Increased desire for the word (1 Pet. 2:2). We need to feed upon the word of God early and often — daily (Acts 17:11)! We need to be like Job who said, “...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:12). Let’s make some changes and cut out all of the bad things that are making us unhealthy spiritually. Read and study the Bible more this year!

MORE EXERCISE. How many people determine to exercise more this time of year? How about us spiritually? “*And herein do I exercise myself, to have a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men*” (Acts 24:16). Paul told Timothy, “...*exercise thyself rather unto godliness...*” (1 Tim. 4:7-8). We need to exercise our senses to discern both good and evil (Heb. 5:14). Let’s allow ourselves to be exercised by the Lord’s chastening (Heb. 12:11)!

MORE FAMILY TIME. Let’s resolve to spend more time with family — God’s family! The church is the family of God (1 Tim. 3:15). Jesus said, “*My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it*” (Lk. 8:21). Spend more time with these people! Do not sin willfully by forsaking the assembling; resolve to be at every service (Heb. 10:25-26)! Spend more time with faithful Christians outside of worship and in our daily lives. The saved at Jerusalem continued “*daily in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house...*” (Acts 2:46). Have faithful Christians in your home and have a meal together. Spend time together!

QUIT BAD HABITS AND START GOOD ONES. What we need to do immediately is quit any and all sin in our lives! This time of year people resolve to quit smoking or drinking. We need to quit sin! If it violates God’s word, as smoking and drinking do, it is sin and we must quit it! Get rid of it (Jas. 1:21). There are bad habits that are harmful as well, such as watching too much T.V., too much social media, laziness, etc. Quit such things and develop good habits! Start reading your Bible, pray without ceasing, take care of the sick and afflicted, etc. These aren’t just suggestions, but commands of God (Eph. 3:4; 1 Th. 5:17; Jas. 1:27)!

RESOLVE CONFLICTS. We are to be of the same mind (1 Cor. 1:10). Paul wrote the Philippians, “*I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord*” (Phil. 4:2). They needed to resolve their conflict and be of the same mind! Whether I have been wronged or I have wronged another, I have responsibility to go and try to resolve the conflict (Mt. 5:23-24; 18:15-17).

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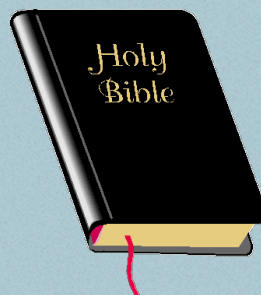
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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