



## NEW YEAR NEW YOU



Once again, let me wish you all a Happy New Year!

It's a new year and many people view this time of year as a new start as well. We've taken some time to reflect on the past year, so now it's time to uncover a new leaf, start the year of strong, and make some goals for this new year.

These are what we call our "New Year's Resolutions."

Did you make any this year?

Maybe you're not big on making New Year's Resolutions...don't worry, neither am I.

I've never really made any, even though there have always been things that I need to improve, but I've never really made any "resolutions."



But if you're the person who makes New Year's Resolutions, then I salute you and wish you success.



Unfortunately, statistics show that only **8%** of people who make New Year's Resolutions, will actually keep them, and that **80-90%** of resolutions are given up on by the middle of February.

Why is that?

Some of it may be that it's simply too hard, or we aren't making the progress that we expected. Some of it may be that we just get overwhelmed with it all. We had good intentions, but once life got back to normal--it just became too much.

Spiritually, it could be that we simply don't have the willpower in and of ourselves to do it. The truth is, we want what we want, and we are going to do what we want.

Thomas Cranmer, a theologian in the 1400-1500s, said, "*What the heart loves, the will chooses, and the mind justifies. The mind doesn't direct the will. The mind is actually captive to what the will wants, and the will itself, in turn, is captive to what the heart wants.*"

This reminds me of what Jesus said in Matthew 15,

**Matthew 15:18-19**

*But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.*

Ultimately, our hearts are wicked and desire selfish things. We simply do not have the willpower to keep our resolutions by ourselves.

But that doesn't mean we shouldn't make resolutions in our lives.

So, how can we actually find success in keeping the resolutions we make?

Here are a few guidelines:

### **1. What's the driving desire for your resolution?**

Not all resolutions are good if you're making them for selfish and sinful reasons. So, what's your motive behind the resolution you are making? Is it selfish or is it God-honoring? Are you doing it to be seen and recognized or to magnify the Lord?

### **2. Make SMART Goals**

Most resolutions fail because they are vague, difficult to measure, unrealistic, and not time specific.

SMART goals are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely.

Keep things simple and scale your resolutions. Focus on just 1-2 goals a month and then build on it the next month.

Set small, attainable goals throughout the year, instead of a singular, overwhelming goal on January 1 which can become overwhelming early.

### **3. Grace Actually Works**

Reality check: You are going to fail—don't beat yourself up about it.

Remember you don't have the willpower to do it on your own.

This is why we all need Jesus.

This is why we need each other.

When you fail, show yourself some grace, and resolve to get back on track.

#### 4. Just Do It

If it's a good resolution, then just do it—it's a noble aspiration.

Derrick Marrs  
Ministry Director

P.S., If you've missed any of our Stop & Consider Newsletters, you can access all of them on our website!

[www.bancroftgospelministry.org/scnewsletter](http://www.bancroftgospelministry.org/scnewsletter)



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## CAMP TALES



In between Season 1 & 2 of the STOP & Consider Podcast, we are not leaving you stranded!

Today, **Part 2 of Humble Beginnings**, the tale of Miss Anna Lewis, is LIVE!

Head over to wherever you listen to your podcasts and take a listen. These are shorter episodes, and our first one goes to before the founding of Bancroft!



If you aren't familiar with podcasts or how to listen to them, feel free to simply visit our website and listen from there. Here is the link for your convenience:

[www.bancroftgospelministry.org/stopandconsider](http://www.bancroftgospelministry.org/stopandconsider)

If you are into the podcast world, below are the links to your favorite podcast platforms for easy access. Currently, the only podcast that has video is through Spotify, but videos to YouTube are coming in Season 2! Be sure to subscribe, like, and comment!

Apple Podcasts:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stop-and-consider/id1843097127>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@STOPandConsider>

Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/5an3QuCPoO4dH9Xa4xp2uc>

Amazon Music:

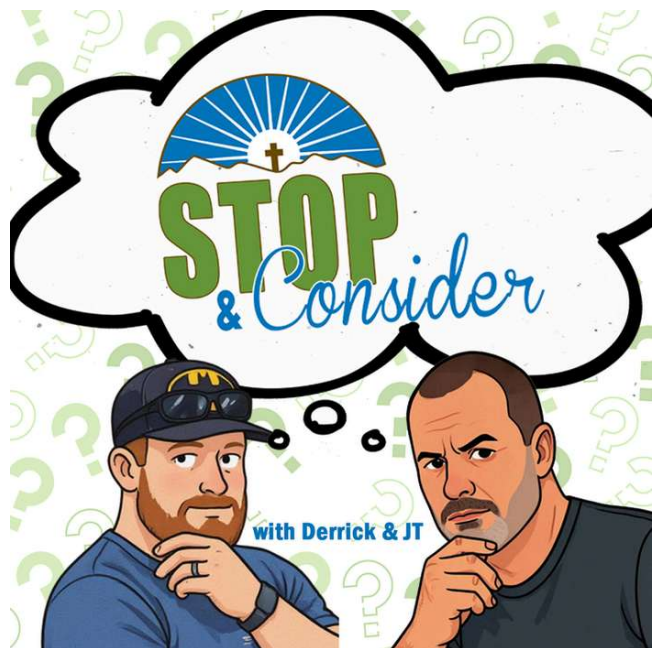
<https://music.amazon.com/podcasts/41b83bb5-ef2f-4f4e-ae1f-bcd85adbc43f/stop-and-consider>

iHeartRadio:

<https://iheart.com/podcast/296982721/>

Season 2 of STOP &  
Consider is coming up soon,  
so you won't be without us for  
too long!

Keep an eye out as Season 2  
begins Friday, January 9th!



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**NEW PARTNERSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**Help Bancroft Bible Camp  
Raise Funds by Taking Your Vehicle to**



**For A Great Shine Every Time!**

**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Purchase any single car wash to help Bancroft Gospel Ministry raise funds for our Bible Camp to help with operational costs and support our efforts! We will receive 30% of the single wash sales earned using our fundraiser's wash code!

**Visit any of the TruShine Car Wash Locations**

203 Linden Square Drive Bristol, VA 24202	25017 Western Loop Abingdon, VA 24211	
3033 Boones Creek Road Johnson City, TN 37615	2227 Fort Henry Drive Kingsport, TN 37664	116 Allensville Road Sevierville, TN 37876
1912 Highway 394 Blountville, TN 37617	1541 W Jackson Blvd Jonesborough, TN 37659	

**Follow the Instructions Below**

Pull up to one of the pay stations.  
Follow the screen prompts to buy a single wash.  
Push the "ENTER WASH CODE" button at the bottom left of the screen.

**Enter Wash Code: 14140**

14140 is the unique number associated with this fundraiser.

You must enter this code to participate in the fundraiser.

Select the car wash of your choice.  
Select your payment method. Insert Payment.  
If preferred, print the receipt for your records.

**Thank you for participating in the  
Bancroft Bible Camp Fundraiser!**

# **STOCK DONATOR**

You can now partner with Bancroft through donating stocks to help financially support the ministry!

By donating stock that has increased in value, you will avoid paying tax on the capital gains. Many donors have found this is an easy way to increase their donation while helping themselves at tax time.

[Donate Stock to Bancroft!](#)



For the price of a movie ticket or a fast-food meal, you can make a lasting impact for the kingdom of God by supporting a ministry who has served the Lord and our community for over 100 years!

Click the button below and become part of a team of people desiring to make an eternal difference by financially supporting Bancroft! You can give **more** than \$10 if you choose and you can even make it a recurring donation for your convenience!

[JOIN THE CLUB!](#)

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