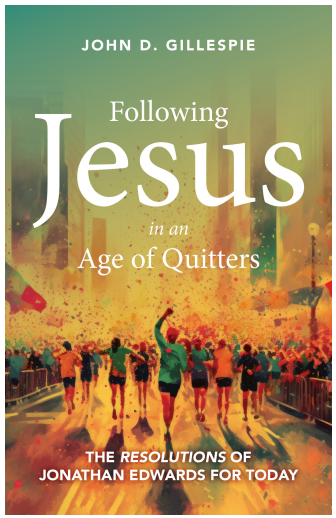
Following Jesus in an Age of Quitters

The Resolutions of Jonathan Edwards for Today

John D. Gillespie

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DESCRIPTION

In 1722, an 18–year–old Jonathan Edwards began setting down seventy resolutions, personal statements of intent, to which, by the grace of God, he held himself accountable for the rest of his life. He read them prayerfully once a week until his death in 1758. John Gillespie here examines each resolution in the light of scripture and encourages modern readers to meditate on how they could apply Edwards' resolutions to their own lives.

MARKETING POINTS

70 devotional readings

Applications for modern readers

Meditation points at end of each chapter

AUTHOR

John, together with his wife, Tessa, has pastored churches in the UK and USA for forty years. They now live in Cornwall, England. They have also travelled extensively with Global Training Network to love, equip and encourage pastors and workers in the Majority World. They have seven children and twenty two grandchildren (so far!).

TECHNICAL DETAILS

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ENDORSEMENTS

What a wonderfully devotional, and yet deeply challenging book! Devotional, because each of Edwards' resolutions reflect the desires of my own heart, and challenging, because my life is yet to match their reality. Devotional, because John links them with honest pastoral care to the circumstances of my own life in a 21st century setting, and challenging, because he doesn't hold back from addressing the barriers in my own heart [how does he know?!] to a similar commitment that Edwards gave. Devotional, because in each chapter John points me to the grace of Jesus, the Father's heart for me, and the Spirit's lifelong investment into shaping me, and challenging, because he calls me to pick up my cross with a 'death to self' call alongside Edwards each time.

I used this as my 'book before bed' over the last few months, as it was so easy to read but left a deep impact. The chapters are only 3 pages long, and start with one of Edwards' resolutions which is put in modern language. John immediately links it to scripture so we are in no doubt that the resolution has a biblical foundation. He then gets under my skin with deep pastoral insight that comes from obvious reflection on his own heart and having served many others over the years. His own humility and self awareness makes it easy for me to agree that I have the same needs. Each chapter ends with a quotation from another Christian which often brought out an audible grunt of agreement.

I cannot recommend this book highly enough. I only have two things I'd like to have changed. Firstly, that I read the book in the morning and not the evening! By resolution 10, I realised I wasn't going to sleep as soon after as I thought. Each resolution caused me to reflect deeper on my own heart than I expected, and moved me to prayer for longer than I intended. Being stubborn with my routines and book reading, I continued! Secondly, all 70 resolutions are listed in the back of the book which would have been a great few pages to photocopy and read aloud every so often. However, they have been put back into their original form which takes a lot more mental gymnastics to interpret. Hopefully the second edition will have them listed in the up–to–date version that John has presented in this wonderfully devotional and yet challenging chisel on my heart.

Jim Hillier

The *Resolutions* of Jonathan Edwards is one of the most thought