

# Supporting Christian Unity in the Alfred Community



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## Lean on Me - January 2002

Happy New Year! It is hard for me to believe we are in the year 2002 already!

What was your New Year's celebration like? Did you share it with friends? Did you watch the ball drop on TV as a part of New York City's annual event? Did you make any New Year's Resolutions?

I was thinking about a few things I'd like to resolve myself to do this year as well. Then as I reflected on all the resolutions I made in the past I came to the startling conclusion that most of them failed!

It's not that I didn't try ~ believe me, I tried very hard and drew upon every skill I had to make them work.

After giving it some considerable thought I came to the conclusion that my very efforts were likely the downfall and ultimate failure of my resolutions. The plain and simple truth of the matter is that by doing everything in my power to succeed ~ I failed. In fact, it has been my humble experience that this same realization holds true for all of the shortcomings in life I have ever experienced.

Now I know that this sounds a bit strange to you my friend but it is the truth just the same. Allow me to illustrate the basis for my conclusion with this one, simple message from Solomon:

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." ~ Proverbs 3:5-6.*

Now can you understand why my resolutions and efforts failed?

I can... (read it again)

I used my own skills and knowledge to try and overcome the things I wanted to change in my life. I leaned on my own understanding.

One of my favorite speakers and authors, Chuck Swindoll, explains it in this way:

"The first three verbs are commands that represent our responsibility. Trust, do not lean, acknowledge...

The fourth verb is a promise. It declares God's part in the situation, His responsibility.

...He will make your paths straight."

I don't know about your friend but that's a promise that I'd like to see fulfilled in my life this year and all my remaining days here on earth. This poses some particular challenges to me as I have some difficulty:

~ trusting

~ asking for help

~ and remembering to acknowledge the Lord over my own initiatives.

Maybe you're struggling with some circumstance in your life that you would like to resolve to change. Let me encourage you not to do it by yourself. Remember Solomon's words and seek God's promise in all that you strive for and together may we find His will in our lives and experience true success in our endeavors!

God Bless You!