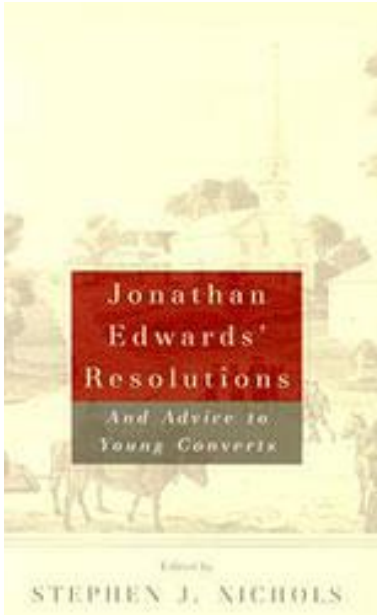


## book of the month *Resolutions / Advice to Young Converts* – Jonathan Edwards



Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) is considered by many to be the greatest theologian that America has ever produced. The last of the Puritans, his writings and sermons bear the marks of a man thoroughly acquainted with God's word and obsessed with God's glory.

The booktable servants have chosen this as July's book of the month because we believe that it will stimulate your love for God and His church as well as bolster your resolve to live a life "worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Phil. 1:27). The sobriety with which Edwards lived his life is evident in each of his 70 Resolutions (written at age 17) which, among other things, highlight the brevity of life, the necessity of salvation, and a longing for heaven. His *Advice to Young Converts* serves as a wonderful example of counsel through correspondence. We pray that you are greatly encouraged by this month's reading.

– Omri Miles

### Heart-Shepherding Helps

1. **Self-Examination.** Several of Edwards' Resolutions involve a process of further self-examination for the purpose of growth in personal holiness (see 23, 24, 25, 37, 40, 41, 47, 48, 57, 60, 67). Prayerfully consider practicing one of these throughout the month of July, and if it serves your own personal holiness, continue the practice.
2. **Bible Knowledge.** Write Scripture addresses in the margins, next to each Resolution or bit of advice given. Since Edwards is drawing from his own knowledge of Scripture in writing these texts, we can sharpen our thinking by noting passages that align with Edwards' thinking.
3. **Share.** Discuss what you are learning from the reading with those in your home and small group. This is a good way to apply Hebrews 10:24, "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."

### "Jonathan Edwards & Broken Resolutions"

The Cripple Gate blog published a helpful blog post, noting Edwards' reflections on his failed attempts at keeping his own resolutions. As intimidating and impressive as the Resolutions can be, it is also helpful to witness Edwards' weakness along with his response and repentance to his waning resolve. Visit [thecripplegate.com](http://thecripplegate.com) and search the above blog title to access the post.

### Suggested One-Month Reading Plan:

This reading plan will take you through the Resolutions once each week, just as Jonathan Edwards purposed to do when he wrote them, and *Advice to Young Converts* twice.

### **Resolutions (10 resolutions per day)**

**Day 1: July 4** – Introduction (pages 5-12)

**Mondays** Resolutions 1-10

**Tuesdays** Resolutions 11-20

**Wednesdays** Resolutions 21-30

**Thursdays** Resolutions 31-40

**Fridays** Resolutions 41-50

**Saturdays** Resolutions 51-60

**Sundays** Resolutions 61-70

### **Advice to Young Converts (twice)**

**Week 1: July 3-9** - Pages 12-15 and 27-30

**Week 2: July 10-16** – Pages 32-36

**Week 3: July 17-23** – Pages 27-30

**Week 4: July 24-30** – Pages 32-36