

# A New Year - A Fresh Start

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**Text: Proverbs 3:1-12 NIV**

## **Introduction:**

Although New Year's Day is the one holiday that is almost universal—in that it is the world's most observed holiday—in reality, New Years is not much of a holiday. The one good thing about New Years is that it offers us a good excuse to reflect on where we have been and consider our path for the next year. As for the path we just traveled, we each have our own assessment of our success, failures, trials, and triumphs.

Solomon offers us additional wisdom about living our lives. Note with me a few of the *precepts* found here in the first twelve verses of Proverbs 3.

## **I. FOLLOW GOD'S WORD AND HE WILL LEAD US INTO FAVOR AND PROSPERITY (vv.1-4).**

“My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.”

**A. Internalizing God's Word is the key to experiencing its blessings.**

**B. Favor is a result of a life lived according to God's Word.**

## **II. TRUST IN GOD AND HE WILL GIVE YOU WISDOM AND STRENGTH (vv.5-8).**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.”

**A. Trusting God requires submitting to God.**

**B. Relying on God will give you strength uncommon strength.**

**III. HONOR GOD AND HE WILL HONOR YOU (vv.9-12).**

“Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.”

**A. When we see God as our source of all good things we will put Him first.**

**B. When we yield to His control we will see His provision.**

**Conclusion**

When facing a new year, it is the wisdom of God’s Word and His guidance that will see us through. In the final analysis, staying true to God’s precepts is the way to a blessed life.