

New Beginnings: Stepping Into the New Year With God

- What word would describe the past year?
 - What hopes or concerns do you carry into the new year?
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Scripture 1: Letting Go of the Past

 Isaiah 43:18–19

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”

Reflection

The New Year often brings memories—some joyful, some painful. God lovingly invites us not to live anchored to what was, but to trust Him with what is ahead. This doesn’t mean ignoring the past; it means refusing to let it define or limit us.

Key Point:

God’s new work requires open hands—hands willing to release regret, disappointment, and even past success.

- What is one thing from last year you need to release to God?
 - Where might God be inviting you to see something “new”?
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Scripture 2: Walking Forward With Confidence

 Philippians 3:13–14

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal...”

Reflection

Paul reminds us that the Christian life is not passive—it’s a forward walk. A new year doesn’t guarantee an easy path, but it does promise God’s faithfulness along the way.

Key Point:

Progress with God is not about perfection; it’s about direction.

Illustration Idea:

Just as we don’t drive forward while staring in the rearview mirror, we can’t fully embrace God’s future while constantly reliving yesterday.

- What spiritual goal might God be placing on your heart this year?

- What does “pressing on” look like in your daily life?
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Scripture 3: Trusting God One Day at a Time

Proverbs 3:5–6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...”

Reflection

The New Year often tempts us to plan everything, but God calls us first to trust Him. When we submit our plans, dreams, and uncertainties to Him, He promises direction—not always explanation, but guidance.

Key Point:

God doesn’t ask us to see the whole path—only to trust the One who does.

- Where do you struggle most to trust God?
 - What would it look like to surrender that area to Him this year?
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Closing Prayer & Commitment

Closing Prayer:

“Lord, as we step into this new year, we choose to trust You. Help us let go of the past, walk forward in faith, and depend on You daily. May our lives reflect Your love and purpose in the days ahead. Amen.”