

# Closing One Year Well & Entering the Next Wisely

*A Prayerful Reflection & Planning Guide*

*"So teach us to number our days  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom."  
— Psalm 90:12*

## **How to Use This Guide**

This guide is not meant to be rushed.

Set aside quiet time over the next few days or weeks.  
Read the Scriptures slowly. Pray honestly. Write thoughtfully.

*Let God lead the pace.*

## 1. Look Back with Honesty (Reflection)

*"Let us examine our ways and test them,  
and let us return to the Lord."  
— Lamentations 3:40*

Reflection is not about shame — it's about wisdom. God meets us in truth, not pretense.

### Prayerfully consider:

- Where did I clearly see God's faithfulness this past year?
- Where did I grow spiritually?
- Where did I drift, resist, or become distracted?
- What patterns helped me — and which quietly hurt me?

### Scripture for Prayer:

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart... and lead me in the way everlasting."  
— Psalm 139:23–24*

### Notes / Reflections:

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## 2. Let Go with Humility (Release)

*"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,  
I press on..."  
— Philippians 3:13–14*

Not everything from last year belongs in the next one. Some things must be released so freedom can follow.

### Prayerfully consider:

- What regret, guilt, or disappointment am I still carrying?
- What has God already forgiven that I keep revisiting?
- What "weight" no longer serves God's purpose in my life?

### Scripture for Prayer:

*"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."  
— Romans 8:1*

### What I am choosing to release:

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### 3. Look Ahead with Faith (*Vision*)

*"Commit your work to the Lord,  
and your plans will be established."  
— Proverbs 16:3*

Vision begins with listening. Before deciding where you want to go, ask where God is leading.

**Prayerfully consider:**

- Where do I sense God inviting me to grow?
- What area of my life needs clearer direction?
- What step of obedience have I been delaying?

**Scripture for Prayer:**

*"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice... 'This is the way; walk in it.'"* — Isaiah 30:21

**Notes / Discernment:**

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### 4. Set God-Honouring Goals (*Intention*)

*"Write the vision and make it plain..."  
— Habakkuk 2:2*

Goals don't replace faith — they give faith direction. Focus on obedience, not outcomes.

**Consider these areas prayerfully** (*you don't need a goal in every category*):

- Spiritual Life
- Relationships
- Stewardship (time, health, finances)
- Calling / Work / Influence

**1–3 God-Honouring Goals for the Year Ahead:**

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## 5. Walk Forward in Dependence *(Submission)*

*"If it is the Lord's will,  
we will live and do this or that."  
— James 4:15*

Hold your plans with open hands. Trust God not only with eternity — but with your days.

### **Prayer of Commitment:**

*"Lord, I commit my plans to You. Lead me, correct me, and guide me. If my plans bring You glory, establish them. If not, give me the courage to release them. Teach me to walk wisely and faithfully in the days ahead. Amen."*

### **Final Thought**

*"Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in Him, and He will act."  
— Psalm 37:5*