



Issue 60 – January 4, 2017

The Naz Prayer Ministry



Next Steps

A new year has begun.

How many of the usual clichés have you already heard? An open calendar. A new day. A blank page. A book yet to be written. A clean slate.

I like them all. Every single day brings the calming whisper of a new start, but when the calendar rolls around to January, the whisper becomes a shout. Some claim that the New Year brings air that seems fresher, and that the aroma of hope wafts aloft with a bold and invigorating fragrance.

However we may choose to describe the days that lay before us, we stand on the precipice of potential.

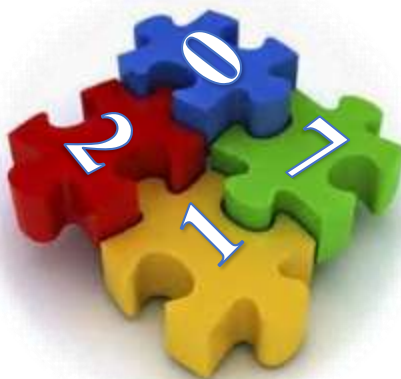
But when we try to gaze into our tomorrows, our view is often skewed. The driving reach for fortunes to be gained or the warmth of a new or renewed or the invigorating expectations of new paths and fresh winds can brighten the view of the horizon. Our plans may even be expansive, perhaps adventurous.

On the other hand, the days that have already been swept into the unchangeable past can and often do color our perspectives casting shadows of doubt, disappointment, or pain that hold the sunshine of promise at bay. Weariness may hang menacingly over our shoulders, distorting our vision with a fog that obscures all but the immediate moment. The expected glimmer of change and hope grow dim against the dawn of a new day. Plans and the courage to dream may come with difficulty, if at all.

But Proverbs 16:9 frames the pathways of our lives with a sense of clarity that does not come from the limits of human experiences and mere mortal perspectives. The future is neither embellished nor muted by the product of our efforts, the impact of past events or unexpected turns.

We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.

Our days are like the pieces of a puzzle, but the image that emerges is of His design, not our own. The New Year is not ours, but His.



Taking Our Next Step Together

Lord God, we declare this day that we trust you. Birth within us hearts that turn aside from the natural desire to devise our own ways, and instead embrace the joy of your providence and care. We commit the days ahead to your sovereignty and grace, and we purpose to let your voice and your voice alone prompt us with each next step.