

***“An Exhortation for the New Year”***  
**Proverbs 3:1-12**

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Four Characteristics of the fear of the LORD:

**1. To Live according to God’s Word**

**vv. 1-4**

**(1) His Counsel**

*“My son, do not forget my law,  
But let your heart keep my commands.”*

**-1- The obedience of a son**

**-2- An obedience of the heart!**

**-3- A showing forth of His mercy and truth in all of my life**

*“Let not mercy and truth  
forsake you”*

- This is “true religion!”
- The distinguishing features of true godliness

**(2) His Promise**

- 1- A long life lived with peace in the heart (2b)**
- 2- Favor and high esteem from God and man (4b)**

**2. To Trust God in All Things**

**vv. 5-8**

**(1) His Counsel**

**-1- An entire and robust trust!** *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart”*

- The natural tendency: To count my own wisdom sufficient!

**-2- A trust in the sufficiency of God’s Word alone!** (Note connection with vv. 1-4!)

**-3- A uniform trust!** *“In all your ways acknowledge Him.”*

**-4- A distrust of one’s own wisdom – the wisdom of the flesh!**

**(2) His Promise**

**-1- The Assurance of God’s hand directing my life (6b)**

**-2- Soundness of mind and body (8b)**

**3. To Honor God with All that I Possess**

**vv. 9-10**

**(1) His Counsel**

*“Honor the LORD with your possessions”*

**-1- He is to be glorified in all that I possess**

- I am to recognize that all I have is from His hand
- I am to trust Him for all that I need

**-2- He has a right to the “first fruits”**

- The recognition that all is from His hand
- The recognition that He has redeemed me and I belong to Him

**(2) His Promise**

- A clear promise here of abundant provision from His hand**
- This is conditioned by all other priorities regarding His sanctifying work**

**4. To Trust God in those Circumstances He Ordains for My Good vv. 11-12**

**(1) His Counsel**

*“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,  
nor detest His correction.”*

**-1- To despise His correction:**

- To misinterpret it
- To fail to identify His hand and purpose in it
- To chafe and grumble against it

**-2- To esteem His correction properly – to value it and cherish it**

- As the proof of His love!
- As the proof of our sonship!

**(2) His Promise: A closer fellowship amidst His correction**

**Further Application**