



**I Am the New Year. . . . .**

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am an open door inviting you to step out.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."

As we look into 2012 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor,

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time . . . . .

***Lord we pray that we may use this coming year wisely and well.  
May we be more attentive to your presence dwelling in each person we meet.  
May we not be too troubled by the negativity we can encounter,  
particularly in these difficult times in our country,  
but learn to distinguish what is worth spending time on from what we must let go.  
Help us to see the areas of light that you invite us to enter  
and willingly leave behind the darkness that can envelop us.***