



I. REVIEW/INTRO

A. A great 2018

**How many want to have a great 2018?
What does a great 2018 look like to you?**

B. Because there are ups and downs in life – God makes us an offer

- I'll partner with you – I have a better way for you to go

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths**

Proverbs 3:6 (TLB) In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success.

- To trust the Lord means that God is smarter than you are ... in EVERYTHING

Priority #1 Give God first place in your heart

C. Here's why this battle is so important and worth winning ...

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

God wants your heart because

1. Beliefs are formed in our hearts, and what we believe will determine our direction and our direction will determine our future

Priority #2 Make what you think about and talk about a priority

D. God's way might seem like a "new way" but it's really the "original" way

- It's really the way that God designed things to operate – spiritual laws/principles

II. IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME HE'S MADE THIS OFFER

A. God makes us an offer similar to the one he made to Israel a nation of slaves

- I'm giving you your own land but there's enemies, giants, obstacle's and walls
 - AND BECAUSE OF WHERE YOU'RE GOING
 - You're going to need to think differently, talk differently, and act differently

B. God didn't start with the "do's" He started with, I loved you first and you're mine

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



III. JESUS GIVES PEOPLE LIKE US A PARABLE

A. Jesus preaching The Sermon on the Mount

- There's a new way to live. Here's a new value system...
 - When someone hits you, don't hit them back, turn the cheek
 - Be generous
 - Don't worry
 - If someone asks you for something give it
 - If someone wrongs you - go after them and make it right
 - Treat everyone the way you want to be treated

B. Jesus is saying, Look at every part of your life and conform your world to mine

Matthew 7:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

Matthew 7:26-27(NKJV) ²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

C. Storms WILL come

- There are no shortcuts or cutting corners
- If I were you considering 2018 – I'd make it a priority
- 24/7/365
- Not because He's a mean God, or you're trying to earn His love but because He's a loving God who's smarter than you are!

1 John 4:16 (NKJ V) ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.