

## BEGIN WITH GOD

*“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”*

*(Gen. 1:1)*

**W**e need to structure our lives by God's standards as defined in His word. If you ask me how to start anything in the world, I will refer to the above scripture and tell you that if in the beginning God created, then it makes sense that in every beginning God must be the focal point. He must lead the life we live. He must be first and foremost.

The Hebrew word for beginning means *first* in place, time, order or rank, and specifically a *first fruit*. It also means chief or chiefest, principal thing. So, when the world was created, God was in the beginning. He existed before the beginning and was responsible for the beginning. This simply means that anytime the year begins the first person that must come to the fore is God. He must be the first in place, time, order or rank.

That is why it just makes sense to start the year with God. It is very important to think of ways to begin the year with God. True believers begin the year by waiting on God through prayer, fasting and reading of scriptures. This is laudable. Once you start the year with God with the various spiritual activities, you are sure to receive divine creativity and blessing in your life the rest of the year. You may have many plans, but it is still important to present your plans to God in prayer. In fact, it is not unscriptural to sit down and plan your life. God admonishes

us to plan. The word of God says that *“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.” (Pro 16:9)*

However, when we plan it is the Lord that will establish the steps we take to bring our plans to pass. That is why it is needful to devote some time in the first few weeks or even the whole of the month of January to seek the face of God. Seeking God's face is a way to commit your plans to Him as the following scripture says; *“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.” (Ps 37:5)*

In the first month of the year, we teach from the scriptures that we should give God our first fruits just as the word “beginning” means in the Hebrew. As we pray, we also engage in applying the principle of sowing and reaping by giving God our first fruit, which is our first harvest of the year. This could mean your first salary of the year, your first income of the year, your first profit of the year etc. In Israel it was the harvest of the year (Heb. 10:35).

We therefore combine prayer, fasting and giving as a way to seek God's favour for the new year.

#### PRAYER & CONFESSION

*Lord, I seek your favour for the New year in Jesus' name.*