



SEPTEMBER 2026 DEVOTIONAL

A HEART THAT SEEKS GOD

30 Days of Drawing Closer to Him

***The Historic St. James Missionary Baptist Church
The Year of Better: Rooted & Rising!***

Love • Grow • Transform • Live



ST. JAMES FAMILY,

September brings us another opportunity to draw closer to God.

Life can become busy quickly. Between family, work, responsibilities, ministry, and the unexpected things that come our way, we can find ourselves giving God what cclis left of our time instead of giving Him our hearts first.

But God desires more than a place on our schedule. He desires a relationship with us.

Jeremiah 29:13 reminds us that when we seek God with our whole heart, we will find Him. Throughout this month, our focus will be simple: **seeking God daily and allowing our relationship with Him to shape the way we live.**

Some days will challenge us to pray more. Others will remind us to listen, forgive, trust, worship, serve, or simply be still before God.

As we continue through **The Year of Better: Rooted & Rising!**, may we remember that becoming better begins with becoming closer to the One who is changing us.

Seek Him first.

Listen for His voice.

Trust His Word.

Follow where He leads.



God is near.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan F. Lowder, Sr.", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Jonathan F. Lowder, Sr.



WEEK ONE

SEEK HIM FIRST



When we make God our priority,
He brings clarity, peace, and purpose.

Draw near. Listen well. Walk daily.

“

You will seek
Me and find Me
when you search
for Me with all
your heart.

JEREMIAH 29:13



MEMORY VERSE

— WEEK ONE —



MATTHEW 6:33

*“But seek first the
kingdom of God and
His righteousness,
and all these things
shall be added to you.”*



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Put God First



Begin each morning
with God before allowing
the demands of the day
to take your attention.



DAILY PRAYER

*“Father, help me begin my day with You
and carry Your presence with me
throughout it. Amen.”*



GOD IS WITH YOU



TRUST THE PROCESS



HE MAKES
ALL THINGS NEW

God is not just taking you somewhere new—

He is making you something new.



DAY ONE

START WITH GOD

Heart Principle

What receives our attention first often shapes the rest of our day.

Scripture

Psalm 5:3

Opening Reflection

Before the phone starts ringing, the emails begin, or the responsibilities pile up, spend a few moments with God. You don't need the perfect prayer or a long routine. Simply begin your day acknowledging Him.

Biblical Insight

David made prayer a regular part of his life. Whether he was celebrating or struggling, he continually turned his heart toward God.

Bridge to Daily Life

Before reaching for your phone tomorrow morning, take a moment to pray.

Hope Principle

God is already present in the day ahead.

Daily Prayer Focus



Father, help me begin my day with You and carry Your presence with me throughout it. Amen.

Reflection Question

What usually gets my attention before God?

Today's Declaration

Today, I will put God first.

DAY TWO

MAKE ROOM FOR HIM

Heart Principle

Closeness with God requires intentional time with God.

Scripture

James 4:8

Opening Reflection

Relationships grow when we give them time and attention. Our relationship with God is no different. We cannot expect to feel close to Him while constantly giving Him whatever time remains.

Biblical Insight

Jesus regularly stepped away from the crowds to pray and spend time with the Father.



Bridge to Daily Life

Find a quiet moment today and give God your full attention.

Hope Principle

When we draw near to God, He meets us there.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, help me make room for You in my everyday life.
Amen.

Reflection Question

What can I remove or reduce to make more time for God?

Today's Declaration

I will make room for God.

DAY THREE

TALK TO GOD

Heart Principle

Prayer is a conversation, not a performance.

Scripture

Philippians 4:6

Opening Reflection



Sometimes we make prayer harder than it needs to be. God is not waiting for impressive words. He wants honesty. Tell Him what is troubling you, what you need, what you appreciate, and what you don't understand.

Biblical Insight

Throughout Scripture, people approached God with honest prayers during fear, grief, gratitude, and uncertainty.

Bridge to Daily Life

Talk to God today about something you've been carrying quietly.

Hope Principle

God welcomes an honest heart.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, teach me to speak openly with You and trust You with what is on my heart. Amen.

Reflection Question

What do I need to talk to God about today?

Today's Declaration

I can bring everything to God in prayer.

DAY FOUR



LISTEN TOO

Heart Principle

Prayer includes listening.

Scripture

Psalm 46:10

Opening Reflection

We often come to God with a list of things we need Him to do. But sometimes we need to stop talking and simply become still. Quiet moments give us space to reflect on His Word and recognize where He may be leading us.

Biblical Insight

Samuel learned to recognize God's voice because he was willing to listen.

Bridge to Daily Life

Spend five quiet minutes with God today without asking for anything.

Hope Principle

God still guides His people.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, quiet my heart and help me recognize Your direction. Amen.



Reflection Question

Have I been talking to God without taking time to listen?

Today's Declaration

I will make room to hear from God.

DAY FIVE

STAY IN THE WORD

Heart Principle

God's Word keeps our hearts grounded.

Scripture

Psalm 119:105

Opening Reflection

We receive advice from many places, but God's Word must remain our foundation. Scripture corrects us, encourages us, teaches us, and reminds us of truth when our emotions tell us something different.

Biblical Insight

Jesus relied on Scripture when He faced temptation in the wilderness.

Bridge to Daily Life



Read a passage slowly today instead of rushing through it.

Hope Principle

God's Word gives direction when the path feels unclear.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, give me a desire for Your Word and wisdom to apply it. Amen.

Reflection Question

Am I allowing Scripture to influence my decisions?

Today's Declaration

God's Word will guide me.

DAY SIX

SEEK GOD, NOT JUST ANSWERS

Heart Principle

Sometimes we become so focused on the answer that we forget the One we are praying to.

Scripture

Psalms 27:8

Opening Reflection



It is natural to seek God when we need something. But our relationship with Him should be deeper than our requests. God wants us to know Him, not simply come to Him for solutions.

Biblical Insight

David desired God's presence even while facing difficult circumstances.

Bridge to Daily Life

Spend time thanking God for who He is without asking Him for anything.

Hope Principle

God Himself is greater than anything He can give us.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, help me desire Your presence more than Your blessings. Amen.

Reflection Question

Do I seek God mainly when I need something?

Today's Declaration

My greatest desire is to know God more.

DAY SEVEN

KEEP COMING BACK



Heart Principle

Spiritual growth requires consistency, not perfection.

Scripture

Lamentations 3:22–23

Opening Reflection

You may miss a prayer time. You may become distracted. You may have a difficult day. Don't allow one imperfect moment to make you give up. Return to God.

Biblical Insight

Peter failed Jesus, but his failure was not the end of his story. Christ restored him and continued to use him.

Bridge to Daily Life

If you've fallen out of a spiritual routine, begin again today.

Hope Principle

God's mercy gives us another opportunity.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, thank You for new mercy. Help me keep returning to You. Amen.

Reflection Question



Where do I need to begin again?

Today's Declaration

I will keep seeking God.

WEEK ONE CLOSING THOUGHT

Seeking God doesn't require complicated routines. It requires a willing heart. Keep praying, reading His Word, listening, and making room for Him.

Seek Him. Know Him. Trust Him.



WEEK TWO

TRUST HIM MORE



When we trust God,
we can face every season
with peace and confidence.

*His timing. His plan. His peace.
Always.*

“

Trust in the Lord
with all your heart
and lean not on your
own understanding;
in all your ways
acknowledge Him,
and He will make
your paths straight.

PROVERBS 3:5-6



MEMORY VERSE — WEEK TWO —



PROVERBS 3:5-6

*“Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and lean not on
your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge
Him, and He will make
your paths straight.”*



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Trade Worry for Prayer



When worry appears,
choose to pray instead
of panic. Give it to God
and trust His timing.



DAILY PRAYER

*“Father, help me trust You more each day.
Strengthen my faith and remind me that
You are always in control. Amen.”*



GOD IS WITH YOU



TRUST THE PROCESS



HE MAKES
ALL THINGS NEW

..... God is not just taking you somewhere new —

He is making you something new.



DAY EIGHT

TRUST WHAT YOU CANNOT SEE

Heart Principle

Faith doesn't require knowing every detail.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:7

Opening Reflection

We often want God to show us exactly how everything will work out. Most of the time, He doesn't. Instead, He asks us to trust Him one step at a time.

Biblical Insight

Abraham followed God's direction without knowing exactly where the journey would lead.

Bridge to Daily Life

Focus on the step God has given you today instead of trying to figure out the entire journey.

Hope Principle

God sees what you cannot.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, help me trust You even when I don't understand what comes next. Amen.



Reflection Question

What am I struggling to trust God with?

Today's Declaration

I don't need every answer to trust God.

DAY NINE

GIVE GOD THE WORRY

Heart Principle

Worry carries what prayer was meant to release.

Scripture

1 Peter 5:7

Opening Reflection

Some concerns follow us from morning until night. We replay possibilities, conversations, and problems in our minds. God invites us to give those concerns to Him.

Biblical Insight

Scripture repeatedly reminds God's people that He cares for them and remains present during uncertainty.

Bridge to Daily Life



Name your biggest worry and intentionally place it before God.

Hope Principle

God cares about what concerns you.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, I give You the things I cannot control. Replace my worry with trust. Amen.

Reflection Question

What have I been worrying about instead of praying about?

Today's Declaration

I release my worries to God.

DAY TEN

GOD IS STILL GOOD

Heart Principle

God's goodness does not change with our circumstances.

Scripture

Psalms 34:8

Opening Reflection



Some days feel good; others don't. Yet God's character remains the same. A difficult season does not mean He has stopped being faithful.

Biblical Insight

Job experienced tremendous loss, yet his story reminds us that hardship does not erase God's sovereignty.

Bridge to Daily Life

Look for one sign of God's goodness today, even if the day is difficult.

Hope Principle

God's goodness is constant.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, help me recognize Your goodness in every season. Amen.

Reflection Question

Where can I see God's goodness today?

Today's Declaration

God is good even when life is difficult.

DAY ELEVEN

DON'T RUSH GOD



Heart Principle

God's timing does not need our help.

Scripture

Psalm 27:14

Opening Reflection

Waiting can make us impatient enough to force things that God never told us to pursue. Sometimes faith means moving. Other times faith means staying still.

Biblical Insight

Abraham learned that trying to accomplish God's promise in his own way created unnecessary difficulty.

Bridge to Daily Life

Before forcing a decision, pray for patience and clarity.

Hope Principle

God knows when the time is right.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, keep me from moving ahead of You. Teach me patience. Amen.

Reflection Question



Am I trusting God's timing or trying to force my own?

Today's Declaration

I will not rush what God is still working out.

DAY TWELVE

REMEMBER WHAT HE HAS DONE

Heart Principle

Remembering God's faithfulness strengthens present faith.

Scripture

Psalm 77:11

Opening Reflection

When a new problem appears, we sometimes forget every previous prayer God has answered.

Remembering His past faithfulness gives us courage for today's challenge.

Biblical Insight

Israel repeatedly remembered God's mighty works as a reminder that He had not abandoned them.

Bridge to Daily Life

Write down three ways God has helped you before.



Hope Principle

The God who carried you then is still with you now.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, help me remember Your faithfulness when fear tries to take over. Amen.

Reflection Question

What past testimony do I need to remember today?

Today's Declaration

I remember what God has done.

DAY THIRTEEN

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE

Heart Principle

Peace does not require perfect circumstances.

Scripture

John 14:27

Opening Reflection

We often think peace will come when the problem disappears. Jesus offers something better—peace that can remain even while the problem is still present.



Biblical Insight

Jesus remained calm during the storm because the storm was never greater than His authority.

Bridge to Daily Life

When anxiety rises today, pause and remind yourself that God is present.

Hope Principle

God's peace can meet you right where you are.

Daily Prayer Focus

Jesus, settle my heart and help me rest in Your peace.
Amen.

Reflection Question

What is disturbing my peace?

Today's Declaration

God's peace will guard my heart.

DAY FOURTEEN

TRUST HIM AGAIN

Heart Principle

Trust is often a decision we make repeatedly.

Scripture



Psalm 56:3

Opening Reflection

Yesterday's faith doesn't remove today's fears. There will be moments when we must choose again to trust God. That's part of walking with Him.

Biblical Insight

David repeatedly turned to God when fear and opposition surrounded him.

Bridge to Daily Life

When fear appears, say aloud, "God, I trust You with this."

Hope Principle

God remains trustworthy.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, when fear comes, remind me to place my trust in You again. Amen.

Reflection Question

Where do I need to choose trust today?

Today's Declaration

When I am afraid, I will trust God.



WEEK TWO CLOSING THOUGHT

Trust doesn't mean you never have questions. It means you know where to take them.

Pray instead of panic. Wait instead of forcing. Trust instead of fearing.



WEEK THREE

LIVE WHAT YOU *Believe*



Our faith is shown through
the way we treat people,
make decisions, and live each day.

Let your life reflect His love.

“

Let your light shine
before others, that they
may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father
in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:16



MEMORY VERSE — WEEK THREE —



JAMES 1:22

*“Do not merely listen to
the word, and so deceive
yourselves. Do what
it says.”*



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Live It Out



Choose one practical way
each day this week to put
your faith into action.



DAILY PRAYER

*“Lord, help me not only hear Your Word,
but live it out in my everyday life.”
Use me to reflect Your love to others.”
In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*



GOD IS WITH YOU



TRUST THE PROCESS



HE MAKES
ALL THINGS NEW

..... God is not just taking you somewhere new —

He is making you something new.



DAY FIFTEEN

LET YOUR LIFE SPEAK

Heart Principle

Our actions should agree with our faith.

Scripture

Matthew 5:16

Opening Reflection

People may not hear every prayer we pray, but they notice how we live. Kindness, honesty, patience, and compassion can show Christ before we ever say His name.

Biblical Insight

Jesus taught His followers to live in a way that points others toward God.

Bridge to Daily Life

Ask yourself what your attitude is communicating to others today.

Hope Principle

God can use your everyday life as a witness.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, let my actions reflect You today. Amen.



Reflection Question

What does my life communicate about my faith?

Today's Declaration

I will live in a way that points others to Christ.

DAY SIXTEEN

CHOOSE KINDNESS

Heart Principle

Kindness is never wasted.

Scripture

Ephesians 4:32

Opening Reflection

We don't always know what someone else is carrying. A kind word, a little patience, or a thoughtful gesture can make more difference than we realize.

Biblical Insight

Jesus consistently noticed people others ignored.

Bridge to Daily Life

Encourage one person today without expecting anything in return.

Hope Principle



God can use small acts of kindness in big ways.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, help me treat others with the same grace You show me. Amen.

Reflection Question

Who can I encourage today?

Today's Declaration

I will choose kindness.

DAY SEVENTEEN

WATCH YOUR WORDS

Heart Principle

Words can heal or hurt.

Scripture

Proverbs 18:21

Opening Reflection

Once words leave our mouths, we cannot pull them back. Before responding out of frustration, pause. Not everything we think needs to be said, and not everything that needs to be said needs to be said harshly.



Biblical Insight

Scripture repeatedly teaches believers to use words that build others up.

Bridge to Daily Life

Pause before responding when emotions are high.

Hope Principle

God can teach us to speak with wisdom and grace.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, guide my words today. Help me speak with wisdom and love. Amen.

Reflection Question

Do my words build people up or tear them down?

Today's Declaration

My words will reflect God's grace.

DAY EIGHTEEN

FORGIVE

Heart Principle

Forgiveness frees the heart from carrying yesterday's hurt.

Scripture



Colossians 3:13

Opening Reflection

Forgiveness does not pretend the hurt never happened. It means refusing to let that hurt control your heart forever.

Biblical Insight

Joseph chose forgiveness even after experiencing betrayal from his own brothers.

Bridge to Daily Life

Ask God to help you release resentment instead of rehearsing it.

Hope Principle

God can heal what hurt you.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, help me forgive as You have forgiven me. Heal the places that still hurt. Amen.

Reflection Question

Is there someone I still need to forgive?

Today's Declaration

I will not allow bitterness to control my heart.



DAY NINETEEN

SERVE SOMEBODY

Heart Principle

Following Jesus includes serving others.

Scripture

Mark 10:45

Opening Reflection

Service doesn't always require a title, microphone, or public recognition. Sometimes it looks like helping someone quietly because you noticed a need.

Biblical Insight

Jesus demonstrated servant leadership throughout His ministry.

Bridge to Daily Life

Look for one need you can meet today.

Hope Principle

No act of service done in love is insignificant.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, show me where I can serve today. Amen.

Reflection Question

Who around me could use some help?



Today's Declaration

I am available to serve.

DAY TWENTY

DO THE RIGHT THING

Heart Principle

Integrity matters when nobody is watching.

Scripture

Proverbs 10:9

Opening Reflection

Character is revealed in private decisions. Following Christ means choosing what is right even when taking a shortcut would be easier.

Biblical Insight

Daniel remained committed to God even when compromise would have made his life easier.

Bridge to Daily Life

Choose integrity today, even if it costs you convenience.

Hope Principle



A clear conscience is worth more than temporary gain.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, give me courage to do what is right in every situation. Amen.

Reflection Question

Would I make the same decision if everyone could see it?

Today's Declaration

I will honor God with my choices.

DAY TWENTY-ONE

LOVE PEOPLE WELL

Heart Principle

Love is one of the clearest signs of a Christ-centered life.

Scripture

John 13:35

Opening Reflection

We will not agree with everyone. We will not understand everyone. But Jesus still calls us to love people.



Biblical Insight

Christ showed compassion to people from different backgrounds, circumstances, and reputations.

Bridge to Daily Life

Be intentional about showing patience and compassion today.

Hope Principle

God's love can work through us.

Daily Prayer Focus

Jesus, teach me to love people the way You do.
Amen.

Reflection Question

Is my love limited only to people who are easy to love?

Today's Declaration

I will let God's love show through me.

WEEK THREE CLOSING THOUGHT

Faith should reach beyond Sunday morning. Let what you believe influence how you speak, serve, forgive, work, and treat people.

Live it. Show it. Share it.



WEEK FOUR

STAY CLOSE TO GOD



A strong spiritual life is built
through daily connection with God.

*Stay connected. Keep growing.
Walk with Him daily.*

“

Abide in Me, and I in you.
As the branch cannot bear
fruit of itself unless it abides
in the vine, neither can you
unless you abide in Me.”

JOHN 15:5



MEMORY VERSE

— WEEK FOUR —

JOHN 15:5

*“I am the vine; you are
the branches. Whoever
abides in Me and I in him,
he it is that bears much
fruit, for apart from Me
you can do nothing.”*



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Protect the Connection

Protect your time with God
this week. Guard your heart,
stay in His Word, and keep
prayer a priority.



DAILY PRAYER 

*“Father, help me stay close to You
and keep my heart connected to You
every day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*



GOD IS WITH YOU



TRUST THE PROCESS



HE MAKES
ALL THINGS NEW

God is not just taking you somewhere new—

He is making you something new.



DAY TWENTY-TWO

STAY CONNECTED

Heart Principle

We cannot produce spiritual fruit apart from Christ.

Scripture

John 15:5

Opening Reflection

A branch separated from its source cannot continue growing. The same is true spiritually. We need regular connection with Christ.

Biblical Insight

Jesus described Himself as the vine and His followers as branches.

Bridge to Daily Life

Don't allow busyness to disconnect you from the One who gives you strength.

Hope Principle

Everything we need begins with Christ.

Daily Prayer Focus

Jesus, keep my heart connected to You. Amen.

Reflection Question



What has been pulling my attention away from God?

Today's Declaration

I will stay connected to Christ.

DAY TWENTY-THREE

PROTECT YOUR HEART

Heart Principle

What enters our hearts eventually affects our lives.

Scripture

Proverbs 4:23

Opening Reflection

Everything deserves a boundary somewhere. Pay attention to what you watch, listen to, entertain, and repeatedly allow into your thoughts.

Biblical Insight

Scripture teaches us to guard our hearts because our choices flow from within.

Bridge to Daily Life

Consider whether what you regularly consume is helping or hurting your spiritual growth.

Hope Principle



God can renew our minds and reshape our desires.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, help me guard my heart and fill my mind with what honors You. Amen.

Reflection Question

What do I need to stop giving access to my heart?

Today's Declaration

I will protect what God is growing in me.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR

DON'T NEGLECT PRAYER

Heart Principle

Prayer keeps us connected to God's heart.

Scripture

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Opening Reflection

Prayer does not have to happen only at a certain time or place. We can talk to God throughout the day—while driving, working, walking, or sitting quietly.

Biblical Insight



Jesus taught His disciples the importance of persistent prayer.

Bridge to Daily Life

Turn ordinary moments into opportunities to pray.

Hope Principle

God is never too busy to hear you.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, help prayer become a natural part of my everyday life. Amen.

Reflection Question

How can I become more consistent in prayer?

Today's Declaration

I will keep talking to God.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE

BE STILL

Heart Principle

Sometimes spiritual strength grows in quiet places.

Scripture

Psalms 46:10



Opening Reflection

We live surrounded by noise. Being still before God allows our hearts to slow down and remember who is truly in control.

Biblical Insight

Jesus often withdrew from crowds to spend quiet time in prayer.

Bridge to Daily Life

Turn off the noise for a few minutes and simply sit with God.

Hope Principle

God meets us in quiet moments.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, quiet the distractions around me and within me. Amen.

Reflection Question

When was the last time I was truly still before God?

Today's Declaration

I will slow down and make room for God's presence.

DAY TWENTY-SIX



WORSHIP ANYWAY

Heart Principle

God is worthy even on difficult days.

Scripture

Psalm 34:1

Opening Reflection

Worship is easy when everything is going well. Real worship also says, “God, You are still worthy,” when life isn't going according to plan.

Biblical Insight

Paul and Silas worshiped God while imprisoned.

Bridge to Daily Life

Praise God today for who He is, not simply for what is going well.

Hope Principle

Praise shifts our attention from the problem to the One who is greater.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, You are worthy in every season. Keep praise in my heart. Amen.

Reflection Question



Can I worship God before my situation changes?

Today's Declaration

I will praise God in every season.

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

STAY TEACHABLE

Heart Principle

Growth requires humility.

Scripture

Proverbs 9:9

Opening Reflection

We never reach a point where God has nothing more to teach us. Correction, Scripture, wise counsel, and even mistakes can help us grow when our hearts remain open.

Biblical Insight

The disciples spent years learning directly from Jesus and still had areas where they needed to grow.

Bridge to Daily Life

Receive correction without immediately becoming defensive.



Hope Principle

God continues shaping willing hearts.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, keep me humble and teachable. Show me where I need to grow. Amen.

Reflection Question

How do I respond when I am corrected?

Today's Declaration

I am still growing, and I am willing to learn.

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT

KEEP GOING

Heart Principle

Consistency carries us through days when motivation disappears.

Scripture

Galatians 6:9

Opening Reflection

Not every day will feel exciting. Some days faithfulness simply means showing up again—



praying again, believing again, serving again, and trying again.

Biblical Insight

Many people God used in Scripture experienced seasons when perseverance mattered more than comfort.

Bridge to Daily Life

Don't quit because today feels difficult.

Hope Principle

God provides strength for another step.

Daily Prayer Focus

Lord, strengthen me when I become tired and help me remain faithful. Amen.

Reflection Question

Where am I tempted to give up?

Today's Declaration

With God's help, I will keep going.



WEEK FIVE

CARRY IT *Forward*



What God teaches us should
continue shaping us long after
this month is over.

*Keep seeking. Keep growing.
Keep trusting.*



Being confident of this
very thing, that He who
has begun a good work
in you will complete it
until the day of Jesus
Christ.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:6



MEMORY VERSE — WEEK FIVE —



PHILIPPIANS 1:6

*“Being confident of this
very thing, that He who
has begun a good work
in you will complete it
until the day of Jesus
Christ.”*



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Keep It Going



Identify one spiritual
habit from this month
that you will continue
and commit to it.



DAILY PRAYER ♥

*“Lord, thank You for drawing me closer to You.
Give me a heart that continues seeking You
every day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*



GOD IS WITH YOU



TRUST THE PROCESS



HE MAKES
ALL THINGS NEW

God is not just taking you somewhere new—

He is making you something new.



DAY TWENTY-NINE

LOOK HOW FAR GOD HAS BROUGHT YOU

Heart Principle

Growth is easier to recognize when we stop and reflect.

Scripture

Psalm 126:3

Opening Reflection

We spend so much time thinking about where we still need to go that we sometimes forget how far God has already brought us. Take a moment to remember the prayers He answered, the lessons you learned, and the strength He gave you.

Biblical Insight

God's people regularly paused to remember His faithfulness.

Bridge to Daily Life

Think about where you were spiritually at the beginning of this year and where you are now.

Hope Principle

Your progress is evidence that God is still working.

Daily Prayer Focus



Father, thank You for every way You have helped me grow. Amen.

Reflection Question

Where have I seen growth in my life?

Today's Declaration

I thank God for how far He has brought me.

DAY THIRTY

KEEP SEEKING

Heart Principle

A month may end, but our pursuit of God should not.

Scripture

Jeremiah 29:13

Opening Reflection

Thirty days of devotion mean little if everything stops tomorrow. The goal was never simply to complete another devotional. The goal is a closer relationship with God.

Keep praying. Keep reading. Keep worshiping. Keep trusting. Keep seeking Him.

There is still more God wants to teach you.



Biblical Insight

Throughout Scripture, people who walked closely with God continued seeking Him through changing seasons.

Bridge to Daily Life

Choose one habit from this month that you will intentionally continue into October.

Hope Principle

There is always more of God to know.

Daily Prayer Focus

Father, thank You for drawing me closer to You. Give me a heart that continues seeking You every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

What will I do differently because of what God has taught me this month?

Today's Declaration

I will continue seeking God with my whole heart.



MONTH-END BLESSING

St. James Family,

As September comes to an end, don't allow your pursuit of God to end with it.

Continue making room for Him. Continue trusting Him when you don't understand. Continue showing His love through the way you live. And when life becomes busy, return to the simple things: **pray, read His Word, worship, listen, and trust.**

As we continue through **The Year of Better: Rooted & Rising!**, may our roots grow deeper because our hearts are drawing closer to God.

May the Lord strengthen you, guide you, give you wisdom, and fill your heart with His peace as you continue to **Love, Grow, Transform, and Live** for His glory.

The Historic St. James Missionary Baptist Church
The Year of Better: Rooted & Rising!



Pastor Jonathan F. Lowder, Sr.



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YEAR OF BETTER



Colossians 3:23-24



After the “Year of Victory”:
We are Rooted and Rising!



The Historic St. James Missionary Baptist Church

Love • Grow • Transform • Live





We Are St. James The Year of Better: Rooted & Rising!



