



31 DAYS OF DECLARATION

A January Devotional for Hope, Expectation & Assurance

St. James Missionary Baptist Church

January 2026

Pastor Jonathan & Lady Diane Lowder

WELCOME LETTER

Dear St. James Family,

As we step into a brand-new year, we are reminded that the foundation of our faith is not built on feelings, trends, or circumstances—but on the unchanging Word of God. January 2026 marks the beginning of **The Year of Better** where we are ***Rooted and Rising as we get Back to the Basics***, and there is no better place to start than by declaring God's truth over our lives daily.

This devotional was created to help you start each day with faith, speak God's promises boldly, and walk confidently in what He has already spoken. We encourage you to read each declaration aloud, meditate on the scripture, pray intentionally, and reflect honestly.

As a church family, we are declaring together—believing together—and walking together.

With love and expectation,

Pastor Jonathan & Lady Diane Lowder

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

DAY 1 – ORDERED STEPS



Declaration:

I declare that this year is ordered by God, and every step I take is directed by Him.

Proverbs 16:9

Reflection:

You are not entering this year by accident. God is intentional about every step you take. Even when plans change, His purpose remains firm. Trust God not only with the destination, but with the direction.

Prayer:

Lord, order my steps and align my heart with Your will. Amen.

Reflection Space:

Where do I need to trust God's direction more fully?

DAY 2 – GOD GOES BEFORE YOU

Declaration:

I declare that I am walking into this year with confidence, knowing God goes before me.

Deuteronomy 31:8

Reflection:

Confidence is not found in certainty—it's found in God's presence. The same God who walked with you last year is already ahead of you in this one.

Prayer:

God, thank You for going before me and staying with me. Amen.

Reflection Space:

What fear do I release today?

DAY 3 – COVERED BY FAVOR



Declaration

I declare that the favor of the Lord surrounds me like a shield in 2026.

Scripture Focus

Psalm 5:12

Pastoral Reflection

Favor is not something you earn—it is something God places on your life. The favor of God does not mean the absence of opposition, but it does mean the presence of divine covering. Even when doors seem heavy or resistance appears strong, favor gives you access, protection, and grace that cannot be explained by human effort alone. Walk boldly today knowing God has already surrounded you.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your favor that covers me, goes before me, and rests upon my life. Teach me to walk humbly and confidently in it. Amen.

Reflection Space

Where have I seen God's favor show up in my life before?

DAY 4 – GOD KEEPS HIS WORD

Declaration

I declare that what God has spoken over my life shall come to pass.

Scripture Focus

Numbers 23:19

Pastoral Reflection

God's promises are not dependent on circumstances, timelines, or opinions. What He has spoken still stands, even if it hasn't happened yet. Delay does not mean denial. Trust that God is faithful to fulfill His Word in His perfect timing.



Prayer

God, help me stand firmly on Your promises even when I don't see immediate results. Strengthen my faith. Amen.

Reflection Space

What promise from God am I still believing for?

DAY 5 – NO FEAR OF THE FUTURE

Declaration

I declare that I will not fear the future, because my future is secure in God.

Scripture Focus

Jeremiah 29:11

Pastoral Reflection

Fear often comes from uncertainty, but faith comes from knowing who holds tomorrow. God's plans for you are filled with hope and purpose. Release anxiety about what's ahead and trust the God who already knows the end from the beginning.

Prayer

Lord, I place my future in Your hands. Replace my fear with confidence in You. Amen.

Reflection Space

What future concern do I need to surrender to God?

DAY 6 – STRENGTH THROUGH JOY

Declaration



I declare that the joy of the Lord is my strength this year.

Scripture Focus

Nehemiah 8:10

Pastoral Reflection

Joy is not rooted in circumstances—it is rooted in confidence that God is still in control. When life feels heavy, joy becomes the fuel that sustains strength. Choose joy today, knowing God remains faithful.

Prayer

Lord, restore my joy and strengthen me through it. Amen.

Reflection Space

What has been draining my joy, and how can I guard it?

DAY 7 – FAITH THAT HOLDS

Declaration

I declare that my faith will not fail, and my trust in God will remain firm.

Scripture Focus

Hebrews 11:1

Pastoral Reflection

Faith anchors you when life shifts. Even when answers are delayed or paths seem unclear, faith reminds you that God is trustworthy. Hold on—your faith is producing endurance.

Prayer

God, strengthen my faith and help me trust You completely. Amen.

Reflection Space



How has my faith grown through challenges?

DAY 8 – ROOTED IN CHRIST

Declaration

I declare that I am rooted, grounded, and built up in Christ.

Scripture Focus

Colossians 2:6–7

Pastoral Reflection

Strong roots produce lasting growth. When your life is rooted in Christ, storms may shake you, but they cannot uproot you. Stay grounded in His Word and presence.

Prayer

Lord, deepen my roots in You. Keep me grounded in truth. Amen.

Reflection Space

What habits help keep me rooted in Christ?

DAY 9 – GOD OUR PROVIDER

Declaration

I declare that every need in my life shall be met according to God's riches in glory.

Scripture Focus

Philippians 4:19

Pastoral Reflection



God's provision flows from His faithfulness, not your fear. Trust that He sees every need and knows exactly when and how to provide.

Prayer

Father, thank You for being my provider. I trust You completely. Amen.

Reflection Space

Where do I need to trust God for provision?

DAY 10 – OPEN DOORS

Declaration

I declare that God is opening doors no one can shut in my life.

Scripture Focus

Revelation 3:8

Pastoral Reflection

When God opens a door, no opposition can close it. Walk forward with confidence knowing God is guiding your opportunities.

Prayer

Lord, give me wisdom to recognize and walk through the doors You open. Amen.

Reflection Space

What door might God be opening for me?

DAY 11 – WISDOM FOR THE JOURNEY

Declaration



I declare that I am growing stronger in wisdom, discipline, and discernment.

Scripture Focus

James 1:5

Pastoral Reflection

God does not withhold wisdom from those who ask. Invite Him into every decision and trust His guidance.

Prayer

God, grant me wisdom for every choice I face. Amen.

Reflection Space

What decision do I need wisdom for today?

DAY 12 – PEACE THAT GUARDS

Declaration

I declare that peace guards my heart and mind through Christ Jesus.

Scripture Focus

Philippians 4:7

Pastoral Reflection

Peace does not remove problems—it protects you while facing them. Allow God's peace to guard your thoughts.

Prayer

Lord, guard my heart and mind with Your peace. Amen.

Reflection Space

What worries do I need to release to God?



DAY 13 – VICTORY IN CHRIST

Declaration

I declare that I am victorious because Christ has already overcome the world.

Scripture Focus

John 16:33

Pastoral Reflection

Victory is not something you chase—it is something you walk in through Christ. Stand confident today.

Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for the victory I have in You. Amen.

Reflection Space

Where do I need to walk in victory?

DAY 14 – ORDERED STEPS

Declaration

I declare that my steps are ordered, even when the path is unfamiliar.

Scripture Focus

Psalm 37:23

Pastoral Reflection

God guides those who trust Him. Even unfamiliar paths are safe when He orders your steps.



Prayer

Lord, guide my steps and calm my fears. Amen.

Reflection Space

Where is God leading me next?

DAY 15 – HARVEST AHEAD

Declaration

I declare that I will not grow weary, for my harvest is coming.

Scripture Focus

Galatians 6:9

Pastoral Reflection

Consistency precedes harvest. Stay faithful—God honors perseverance.

Prayer

Lord, give me strength to keep going. Amen.

Reflection Space

What good work am I continuing in faith?

DAY 16 – SUFFICIENT GRACE

Declaration

I declare that God's grace is sufficient for every challenge I face.

Scripture Focus



2 Corinthians 12:9

Pastoral Reflection

Grace meets you where strength ends. Trust God's grace to carry you through.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for grace that sustains me. Amen.

Reflection Space

Where do I need God's grace most?

DAY 17 – WALKING BY FAITH

Declaration

I declare that I will live by faith and not by sight.

Scripture Focus

2 Corinthians 5:7

Pastoral Reflection

Faith often requires movement before clarity. Trust God beyond what you can see.

Prayer

Lord, help me walk by faith daily. Amen.

Reflection Space

Where is God asking me to trust Him?

DAY 18 – POWER OF WORDS



Declaration

I declare that my words will produce life, hope, and healing.

Scripture Focus

Proverbs 18:21

Pastoral Reflection

Your words shape your environment. Speak life intentionally.

Prayer

God, help me speak words that honor You. Amen.

Reflection Space

How can I speak more life today?

DAY 19 – RESTORATION

Declaration

I declare that God is restoring what was lost, broken, or delayed.

Scripture Focus

Joel 2:25

Pastoral Reflection

God redeems time, purpose, and opportunity. Restoration is part of His nature.

Prayer

Lord, restore what has been lost in my life. Amen.

Reflection Space

What am I trusting God to restore?



DAY 20 – DIVINE COVERING

Declaration

I declare that I am covered, kept, and protected by the Lord.

Scripture Focus

Psalm 91:1–2

Pastoral Reflection

God's presence is your refuge. Rest under His covering.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your protection. Amen.

Reflection Space

Where do I need to rest in God's protection?

DAY 21 – KINGDOM FIRST

Declaration

I declare that I will seek first the Kingdom of God in everything I do.

Scripture Focus

Matthew 6:33

Pastoral Reflection

When God is first, everything else aligns. Prioritize Him daily.

Prayer



Lord, help me put You first in every area. Amen.

Reflection Space

What needs to be reordered in my life?

DAY 22 – GROWING THROUGH TESTS

Declaration

I declare that my faith is growing through every test and trial.

Scripture Focus

James 1:2–4

Pastoral Reflection

Testing produces maturity. God is using every challenge to strengthen you.

Prayer

Lord, help me grow through what I go through. Amen.

Reflection Space

What lesson is God teaching me now?

DAY 23 – MORE THAN A CONQUEROR

Declaration

I declare that I am more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me.

Scripture Focus

Romans 8:37



Pastoral Reflection

Victory flows from Christ's love. Walk confidently today.

Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for victory through Your love. Amen.

Reflection Space

How can I walk more boldly today?

DAY 24 – RENEWED MIND

Declaration

I declare that God is renewing my mind and transforming my life.

Scripture Focus

Romans 12:2

Pastoral Reflection

Transformation begins in thinking. Allow God to reshape your perspective.

Prayer

Lord, renew my mind with truth. Amen.

Reflection Space

What thought patterns need renewal?

DAY 25 – OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSING

Declaration



I declare that obedience unlocks blessing in my life.

Scripture Focus

Deuteronomy 28:1–2

Pastoral Reflection

Obedience positions you where blessing flows freely.

Prayer

Lord, help me walk in obedience. Amen.

Reflection Space

Where can I obey God more fully?

DAY 26 – GOD'S WORD GUIDES

Declaration

I declare that God's Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Scripture Focus

Psalm 119:105

Pastoral Reflection

God's Word brings clarity when life feels dark. Stay anchored in Scripture.

Prayer

Lord, guide me through Your Word. Amen.

Reflection Space

How can I spend more time in God's Word?



DAY 27 – NO WEAPON SHALL PROSPER

Declaration

I declare that nothing formed against me shall prosper.

Scripture Focus

Isaiah 54:17

Pastoral Reflection

God is your defender. Opposition does not override God's protection.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for standing as my defender. Amen.

Reflection Space

What opposition am I trusting God to handle?

DAY 28 – GOD FINISHES

Declaration

I declare that God will finish what He started in me.

Scripture Focus

Philippians 1:6

Pastoral Reflection

God never abandons His work. Completion is part of His promise.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for completing Your work in me. Amen.



Reflection Space

What has God already begun in my life?

DAY 29 – A NEW THING

Declaration

I declare that God is doing a new thing in my life.

Scripture Focus

Isaiah 43:19

Pastoral Reflection

God is always moving forward. Stay alert and expectant.

Prayer

Lord, help me recognize what You are doing new. Amen.

Reflection Space

What new thing might God be birthing?

DAY 30 – LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY

Declaration

I declare that my life will bring glory to God in word and deed.

Scripture Focus

Colossians 3:17

Pastoral Reflection



Every action becomes worship when done for God's glory.

Prayer

Lord, help me live for Your glory today. Amen.

Reflection Space

How can I honor God today?

DAY 31 – GOODNESS FOLLOWS

Declaration

I declare that goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

Scripture Focus

Psalm 23:6

Pastoral Reflection

You don't chase goodness—God's goodness follows you. Walk confidently into the year ahead.

Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for Your goodness that follows me always. Amen.

Reflection Space

What am I grateful for as I move forward?
