

An Unusual Advent: The Journey to True Change
A New Birth Devotional Experience
An Advent Journey of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Faith



Advent → Church as Unusual

Advent is a sacred season of anticipation, preparation, and renewal, the four weeks that lead us toward the celebration of Christ's birth. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." It is during this time that the Church looks back with gratitude for Jesus' first coming in Bethlehem and looks forward with expectation for His promised return.

Yet Advent is not only about remembering a past moment or awaiting a future one. **Advent invites us to make room for Christ to come alive in us, right now.**

It calls us to slow down in a world that rushes, to listen in a world full of noise, and to prepare our hearts in a world more concerned with preparing for celebration than preparing for Christ. Advent is the discipline of intentional expectation, the practice of spiritual readiness, and the invitation to personal transformation.

This year at New Birth, we are embracing Advent through the lens of our 2026 theme:

Church as Unusual

Advent reminds us that God rarely moves in predictable ways. Jesus came into the world unusually, born in a manger, announced to shepherds, wrapped in humility, yet carrying glory. His arrival was unexpected, unconventional, and undeniably transformative.

**Advent itself is an unusual story.
And it calls us to become an unusual people.**

As we journey through this devotional season, we prepare not only to celebrate Christ's birth but to become a church that reflects the extraordinary nature of His Kingdom. Advent invites us to pause and welcome the God who still moves in unusual ways, through unusual people, to bring forth unusual results.

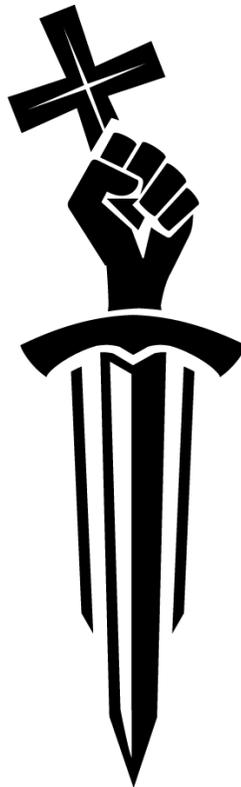
This year, we enter Advent determined to be a **Church as Unusual**:

- A church that expects God to move
- A church that prepares room for His presence
- A church that welcomes the unexpected work of the Holy Spirit
- A church transformed from the inside out by the coming King

May this Advent season awaken our hearts, deepen our hunger, and prepare us to walk boldly into the unusual story God is writing in and through New Birth.

ADVENT 2025 CALENDAR AND WEEKLY THEMES

Week	Theme	Dates	Focus Scripture	Transformational Focus
1	Unusual Hope – “Expect the Unexpected”	Nov 30 - Dec 6	Isaiah 40:31	Move from feelings to faith. Hope anyway.
2	Unusual Peace – “Calm in the Chaos”	Dec 7 - Dec 13	John 16:33	Find peace through discipline, not avoidance.
3	Unusual Joy – “Shouting in the Struggle”	Dec 14 - Dec 20	Proverbs 17:22	Rejoice even when it’s not resolved.
4	Unusual Love – “A Different Kind of Gift”	Dec 21 - Dec 27	1 John 4:7-8	Love that acts, forgives, and lifts—even when it’s hard.
5	Unusual Faith – “Stepping Into the New Year”	Dec 28 - Jan 3	Hebrews 11:1	Finish strong and begin again with fearless faith.



Pastor's Foreword

Dr. Jamal H. Bryant, Senior Pastor

As we enter this sacred Advent season, I sense God calling His church into a deeper dimension of expectation and preparedness. Advent is not merely a season of waiting; it is a season of becoming. It is the holy work of making room, not just in our calendars but in our character, not just in our homes but in our hearts.

Advent trains us to pause in a rushing world, to listen in a loud world, and to prepare in a distracted world. It reminds us that Christ did not come into comfort. He came into chaos and still brought peace, purpose, and power. The same Christ who arrived in an unusual way, in a manger, desires to come in unusual ways into our mindset, our habits, and our spiritual walk.

This year, our theme Church as Unusual is not a branding phrase. It is a spiritual summons. Advent itself is unusual because God entered the world in a way no one expected. Now, God is inviting us into that same kind of holy disruption:

To rise above routine religion.

To push beyond passive faith.

To embrace the kind of transformation that requires discipline, devotion, and daily surrender.

For too long, many have settled for inspiration without transformation, for quick conviction without lasting change. Advent reminds us that preparation comes before power. Growth requires both grace and grit. God is calling us into consistency, commitment, and spiritual maturity. He is inviting us to move from momentary emotion to sustained obedience.

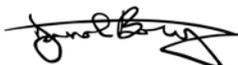
Transformation does not come through convenience. It comes through conviction. It is not built on emotion but rooted in expectation. Advent teaches us that the God who came once wants to come again, into our thinking, our behavior, and our purpose.

This devotional is designed to guide you through that process. Each day will stretch your faith, sharpen your focus, and strengthen your spirit. It will help you experience Advent not as a sentimental season but as a strategy for spiritual renewal. As you walk through Unusual Hope, Unusual Peace, Unusual Joy, Unusual Love, and Unusual Faith, my prayer is that the unusual will not only surround you but transform you.

Let this be your declaration this Advent:

"I am not simply waiting for Christ to come; I am preparing for Him to change me."

In His Service and Strength,



Dr. Jamal H. Bryant, Senior Pastor
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church

INTRODUCTION

From Waiting to Becoming

Advent is the season of anticipation, a sacred time when we look back in gratitude for Christ's first coming and forward in faith for His return. But this year, God is calling us to more than waiting; He's calling us to becoming.

This is not just a countdown to Christmas, it's a countdown to change.

Transformation doesn't wait for January. It begins when we make room for Christ to be born again in our thoughts, our habits, and our hearts. The same power that turned a manger into a miracle wants to turn your waiting into becoming.

For too long, many of us have been held hostage by five simple words: "I don't feel like it." Those words have delayed dreams, weakened disciplines, and numbed spiritual growth. But this Advent, we're declaring that feelings will no longer lead, faith will.

Even Jesus faced that moment in Gethsemane: "Father, not My will, but Yours be done." He showed us that obedience is not always convenient, but it is always transformative. True change begins when we do what we don't feel like doing, praying when we're tired, forgiving when it hurts, giving when it's inconvenient, worshiping when it's uncomfortable.

This is how transformation happens: one obedient step at a time.

As you journey through these weeks of Unusual Hope, Unusual Peace, Unusual Joy, Unusual Love, and Unusual Faith, remember: Advent is not just about what God did then—it's about what He's doing now. He's birthing something new in you.

Each reflection will end with a *Transformation Challenge*, a practical step to turn inspiration into action. Because God doesn't just want you to read this devotional, He wants you to become it.

Let's walk through this Advent season refusing to be ruled by feelings and ready to be renewed by faith. You're not waiting for change. You are the change God is birthing in this season.

WEEK 1: UNUSUAL HOPE

“Expect the Unexpected, Even When You Don’t Feel Like It”

Focus Scripture: Micah 7:7 (NIV) — “But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.”

Community Connection — Walk in Hope Together

Hope grows best in community. Invite a partner or group to walk through this week with you. Check in midweek, pray together, and remind each other that even when it’s hard, hope still holds.

Introduction

Hope is heaven’s defiance against despair. It refuses to surrender to what is seen and insists on what is promised. Unusual hope does not depend on how you feel, it depends on who God is.

This week, God is calling you to move from emotional reaction to spiritual expectation. Hope is not a mood; it’s a mindset. It’s what happens when you decide to trust even when you don’t feel like trying.

Day 1 — Hope When It’s Hard

Romans 12:12 (NIV) — “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Hope grows best in hard places. God doesn’t waste difficulty, He develops destiny. When you hold on to hope when it hurts, heaven starts to move.

Prayer: Lord, strengthen me to stay faithful while You’re forming my future.

Declaration: Hope is my weapon, and patience is my posture.

Transformation Challenge: Write one area of your life that feels impossible. Then, in faith, declare aloud: “It’s hard, but it’s holy, God is still working.”

Day 2 — Watchful Faith

Psalms 130:5 (NIV) — “I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.”

Waiting isn’t weakness, it’s worship. When God seems silent, He’s often strengthening your roots. Silence doesn’t mean absence; it means something sacred is unfolding.

Prayer: Teach me to wait with expectation, Lord.

Declaration: My waiting is not empty; it's worship in disguise.

Transformation Challenge: Take five minutes in silence today. No music, no scrolling. Just breathe and listen. Write what you sense God whispering.

Day 3 – Light in the Waiting

Isaiah 60:1 (NIV) – “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

Transformation starts when you rise, even before you feel ready. God's glory meets you in movement. Don't wait to feel light, stand, and light will find you.

Prayer: Awaken my spirit, Lord, and let Your glory rise upon me.

Declaration: I'm getting up, my light is coming, and glory is on the way.

Transformation Challenge: Encourage someone who's struggling to get back up. Sometimes your message of hope becomes their miracle.

Day 4 – Hope Beyond History

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV) – “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

Your past is not your prison; it's proof of God's patience. He didn't bring you this far to abandon you now.

Prayer: Lord, let my past remind me of Your mercy, not my mistakes.

Declaration: My history cannot cancel my destiny.

Transformation Challenge: Write a short testimony titled “I Survived That.” Then read it aloud as a declaration of faith.

Day 5 – When the Answer Is Delayed

Habakkuk 2:3 (NIV) – “Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.”

Heaven's pause is not punishment. The promise is still on schedule. God's timing may not be comfortable, but it is always correct.

Prayer: Help me trust that my delay is divine timing, not denial.

Declaration: My waiting is working for me.

Transformation Challenge: Call or text someone who's waiting for a breakthrough. Remind them, "God's still on the clock."

Day 6 – Hope That Speaks Life

Proverbs 18:21 (NIV) – "The tongue has the power of life and death."

Your words are your workshop for miracles. Speak life, even when you feel drained. Hope doesn't whisper defeat, it declares destiny.

Prayer: Fill my mouth with words that build, not break.

Declaration: My words are miracles in motion.

Transformation Challenge: Start your morning by saying, "Something good is going to happen for me and through me today."

Day 7 – Hope That Heals

Romans 15:13 (NIV) – "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."

Hope repairs what fear ruined. Healing begins where belief returns. God wants to fill you until your hope overflows into others.

Prayer: God of hope, restore joy and peace until I overflow again.

Declaration: I am healed, whole, and hopeful, fear has no residence here.

Transformation Challenge: List three ways God has already restored you. Thank Him aloud for each one.

WEEK 2: UNUSUAL PEACE

“Calm in the Chaos, Obedience Over Emotion”

Focus Scripture: Mark 4:39 (NIV), “He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.”

Community Connection, Guarding Peace Together

Peace is multiplied in partnership. This week, connect with your accountability partner or small group to practice peace on purpose. Share moments when your peace was challenged, and encourage each other to respond with prayer instead of panic.

Together, commit to:

- Praying daily for one another’s peace of mind.
- Choosing calm language over complaint.
- Declaring aloud, “No matter the pressure, I choose peace.”

This is Church as Unusual, not a building full of perfect people, but a community full of peaceful ones.

Introduction

Unusual peace is not found in the absence of problems, but in the presence of God. It is the calm that confuses your enemies and steadies your spirit when the world shakes. This peace cannot be purchased or performed; it is produced by trusting God’s authority over the atmosphere.

This week, God is inviting you to trade anxiety for alignment. You cannot control every circumstance, but you can control your response. Peace is not passive, it is powerful. It is the stillness that silences storms, both around you and within you.

Day 8, Peace in the Storm

John 16:33 (NIV), “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

The peace Jesus offers does not promise escape, it promises endurance. When the waves roar, remember that the One who walks on water is also in your boat.

Prayer: Lord, speak "peace, be still" over my anxious thoughts.

Declaration: I am not drowning, I am developing. God is still in my boat.

Transformation Challenge: Each time you feel pressure today, take a deep breath and whisper, "Peace, be still."

Day 9, Guard Your Mind

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV), "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Peace is protection. It guards what panic tries to steal. When worry knocks, let prayer answer the door.

Prayer: Father, cover my mind from fear and fill it with faith.

Declaration: My thoughts are aligned with heaven, peace guards my heart like armor.

Transformation Challenge: Write down one recurring worry and replace it with a Scripture that declares God's truth over it.

Day 10, Peace That Leads

Colossians 3:15 (NIV), "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

Peace should lead, not follow. If peace leaves, pause. God never leads by confusion, only by calm conviction.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, lead me by peace, not by pressure.

Declaration: I move only in the rhythm of God's peace.

Transformation Challenge: Before making any major decision today, ask, "Do I feel peace here?" Wait until the answer is yes.

Day 11, Stillness Is Strength

Psalms 46:10 (NIV), "He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'"

Stillness is not weakness, it is strategy. Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is to sit down and surrender the outcome.

Prayer: God, teach me to trust the silence as much as the shout.

Declaration: My stillness is strength, my quiet is confidence.

Transformation Challenge: Take five minutes of complete stillness today. No requests, no complaints, only awareness of God's presence.

Day 12, Peacemakers Win

Matthew 5:9 (NIV), "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Peace is not passive, it is power under control. Peacemakers do not avoid conflict; they bring Christ into it.

Prayer: Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace wherever chaos lives.

Declaration: I carry peace into every room I enter.

Transformation Challenge: Be the first to reconcile with someone this week, not because you are wrong, but because you are free.

Day 13, Rest for the Soul

Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV), "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Peace is soul rest. Jesus never asked you to carry what He already conquered. Lay it down, breathe, and let His rest restore you.

Prayer: Lord, I release what I cannot control into Your hands.

Declaration: I live from rest, not restlessness, my peace is protected.

Transformation Challenge: Schedule ten minutes today to slow down, breathe, and simply be. Protect that time as holy.

Day 14, Unshakable Peace

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NIV), "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."

God's peace is not seasonal, it is supernatural. Even when everything shakes, He remains steady. This peace cannot be taken; it can only be activated.

Prayer: Lord of peace, anchor my heart in You when life feels unstable.

Declaration: My peace is permanent because my God is present.

Transformation Challenge: Before bed tonight, thank God for three moments today when His peace kept you steady.

WEEK 3: UNUSUAL JOY

“Shouting in the Struggle, Strength in the Spirit”

Focus Scripture: Habakkuk 3:18 (NIV), “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”

Community Connection, Choose Joy Together

Joy grows in community. It multiplies when shared and strengthens when spoken. This week, connect with your accountability partner or small group and make a covenant to choose joy together.

Encourage one another to:

- Celebrate small victories, even if it is just getting through the day.
- Laugh often, because laughter is holy resistance.
- Remind each other that joy is not a mood, it is a miracle.

Church as Unusual is not just a joyful church; it is a church that teaches people to find joy while waiting, working, and worshiping.

Introduction

Unusual joy is not circumstantial, it is supernatural. It shouts in the valley, smiles through tears, and dances while deliverance is still on the way. This week, God is teaching you that joy is not the reward of results, it is the rhythm of resilience.

Joy does not deny pain; it defies it. It is the sound of faith refusing to bow to fear. When you learn to rejoice before the outcome, you remind the enemy that your praise is not conditional, it is covenantal.

Day 15, Joy Anyway

James 1:2-3 (NIV), “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

Joy does not need a reason; it is the reason. It is the shout that says, “I still believe.” Every challenge is a chance to prove your faith cannot be shaken.

Prayer: Lord, give me joy that cannot be canceled by conflict.

Declaration: My circumstances do not dictate my celebration.

Transformation Challenge: Write down one trial you are facing and beside it, one reason to thank God anyway.

Day 16, Joy in the Morning

Psalm 30:5 (NIV), "For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."

Morning does not always mean sunrise; sometimes it means revelation. When your mind wakes up to grace, it is already morning.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, that my darkness has an expiration date.

Declaration: My mourning is turning into morning, joy is on schedule.

Transformation Challenge: Step outside at sunrise and thank God aloud for new mercies.

Day 17, Strength in Joy

Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV), "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Joy is the power source of perseverance. The enemy cannot drain a believer who rejoices on empty. Every praise recharges your strength.

Prayer: Lord, let Your joy fuel me when fatigue tries to win.

Declaration: I am powered by joy, unbothered, unbroken, unstoppable.

Transformation Challenge: Do something today that makes your spirit smile, then give God glory for the moment.

Day 18, The Sound of Joy

Psalm 100:1 (NIV), "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth."

Joy makes noise. It refuses to stay silent when God has been good. Worship is the sound of victory rehearsed before the battle ends.

Prayer: God, fill my mouth with a sound that shifts atmospheres.

Declaration: My praise is prophetic; I am shouting because I have already won.

Transformation Challenge: Play your favorite worship song today and sing it with your whole heart.

Day 19, Joy That Restores

Psalm 51:12 (NIV), "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."

Sometimes joy does not need discovery, it needs recovery. When disappointment drains you, ask God to refill what pain poured out.

Prayer: Lord, restore what sorrow tried to steal.

Declaration: My joy is returning with power and purpose.

Transformation Challenge: Reflect on when you first experienced God's love, and let that memory reignite your joy.

Day 20, Overflowing Joy

John 15:11 (NIV), "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

Complete joy is not quiet; it spills out. When joy overflows, peace, hope, and love follow. Do not contain it; let it change your environment.

Prayer: Fill me, Lord, until my joy spills into others.

Declaration: My joy overflows; it is bigger than my burden.

Transformation Challenge: Text or call someone and share one thing God has done for you this week.

Day 21, Unstoppable Joy

1 Peter 1:8 (NIV), "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy."

Joy that comes from Jesus cannot be stolen by situations. It is heaven's reminder that you are still standing because grace still works.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for joy that survives every storm.

Declaration: My joy is in Jesus; therefore, it is unshakable, unstealable, and unending.

Transformation Challenge: End your week by dancing, clapping, or rejoicing out loud. Move like someone who knows victory is already yours.

WEEK 4: UNUSUAL LOVE

“A Different Kind of Gift, Loving Beyond Limits”

Focus Scripture: 1 John 4:9 (NIV), “This is how God showed his love among us, He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.”

Community Connection, Love Out Loud

This week, challenge yourself and your accountability partner to make love visible. Unusual love is not a feeling, it is a function. It feeds, forgives, and fights for others.

Together, commit to:

- Doing one act of kindness each day, big or small.
- Praying over someone else’s breakthrough, not just your own.
- Sharing the message of Jesus’ love wherever you go, even in ordinary moments.

Church as Unusual is a church that loves beyond comfort zones, because real revival begins with radical love.

Introduction

Unusual love does not wait to be earned, it initiates, invests, and intercedes. It is love that moves first, gives freely, and forgives fully. This week, God is calling you to love in ways that feel uncomfortable, to stretch your compassion until it looks like Christ.

True love does not stop at emotion; it demands expression. It gives even when it hurts, and forgives even when it costs. In a world that celebrates convenience, God’s love is courageous. It is the most unusual gift you can give, because it reflects the heart of a Savior who gave everything.

Day 22, Love That Moves First

Romans 5:8 (NIV), “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this, While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

God did not wait until we got it right, He reached for us while we were wrong. Love moves first because it values relationship over reputation.

Prayer: Lord, help me to love proactively, not reactively.

Declaration: I move in love before I am moved by offense.

Transformation Challenge: Reach out to someone you have been distant from and choose kindness as your first response.

Day 23, Love Without Limits

Ephesians 3:18-19 (NIV), “May you have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

God’s love cannot be measured or managed. It finds people where they are and reminds them that they still matter.

Prayer: Father, stretch my heart to love those who are difficult to reach.

Declaration: My love has no limits because it flows from an unlimited God.

Transformation Challenge: Do something unexpected for someone who would least expect it. Bless them quietly and intentionally.

Day 24, Forgiving Love

Colossians 3:13 (NIV), “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Forgiveness is not agreement; it is freedom. When you forgive, you do not excuse the pain, you end its power over you.

Prayer: Lord, help me release the offense and walk in freedom.

Declaration: Forgiveness is my rebellion against bitterness.

Transformation Challenge: Write down one name you need to release. Pray for that person’s peace, and for your own.

Day 25, Love in Action

1 John 3:18 (NIV), “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

Love that only talks is empty noise. Real love shows up when others shut down. It delivers groceries, dries tears, and opens doors.

Prayer: God, make my love visible and verifiable.

Declaration: My love looks like service, not just sentiment.

Transformation Challenge: Serve someone this week, whether in your community, your home, or your church. Let your actions preach louder than your words.

Day 26, Love That Lifts

Galatians 6:2 (NIV), "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Love lifts what life has dropped. When you help carry someone's burden, you remind them that God still cares.

Prayer: Lord, give me strength to lift those who are heavy with grief or worry.

Declaration: I am a burden-lifter, not a weight-adder.

Transformation Challenge: Encourage or assist someone who is struggling this week. Be their reminder that they are not alone.

Day 27, Costly Love

John 15:13 (NIV), "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Real love always costs something, whether it is time, pride, or convenience. But the return is eternal. Love that sacrifices becomes love that saves.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me to love when it is not easy or convenient.

Declaration: I love like Christ, fully, freely, and fearlessly.

Transformation Challenge: Give of your time or your resources to bless someone in need this week.

Day 28, Love That Reflects Christ

John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Love is the proof of discipleship. The world does not need louder Christians, it needs more loving ones. When you love well, people see Jesus through you.

Prayer: Lord, let my love be a mirror that reflects You.

Declaration: My love is my witness, I am proof that Jesus lives.

Transformation Challenge: Share your testimony with someone who has forgotten that they are loved by God.

WEEK 5: UNUSUAL FAITH

“Stepping Into the New Year, Moving From Belief to Becoming”

Focus Scripture: Hebrews 11:1 (NIV), “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Community Connection, Faith in Forward Motion

Faith grows stronger when it walks with others. As you close this Advent journey, partner with your accountability friend, your family, or your ministry group to speak vision and declare victory together.

This week, challenge one another to:

- Share one bold faith goal for the coming year and pray it into being.
- Write a list of what you are leaving behind, and release it through prayer.
- End the year worshipping together, declaring that greater is coming.

Church as Unusual is not afraid to believe big. It is a movement that lives by faith, not fear, stepping into the unknown expecting a miracle.

Introduction

Faith is the bridge between what you believe and what you see. It moves mountains, opens doors, and changes the direction of your life. Unusual faith is not faith that sees the whole picture; it is faith that moves even when the picture is unclear.

As you prepare to cross into a new year, let your faith lead the way. You are not walking into uncertainty; you are walking into promise. The God who met you at the manger will carry you into your mission.

Day 29, Faith to See Beyond

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV), “For we live by faith, not by sight.”

Faith does not ignore reality; it interprets it differently. You may not see it yet, but God is already arranging it.

Prayer: Lord, help me see what You see and not what scares me.

Declaration: My eyes are open to vision, not limitation.

Transformation Challenge: Write down one area of your life where you will choose to see through faith instead of fear.

Day 30, Faith That Speaks

Mark 11:23 (NIV), "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them."

Mountains do not move by observation; they move by declaration. Faith speaks what it expects, not what it experiences.

Prayer: God, align my words with Your will so I can speak power to the impossible.

Declaration: I talk like I already have it, because my God has already finished it.

Transformation Challenge: Declare three faith statements aloud each morning this week.

Day 31, Faith to Begin Again

Isaiah 43:19 (NIV), "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Sometimes faith looks like starting again after a setback. God is not repeating old seasons; He is revealing new ones.

Prayer: Lord, renew my courage to start what fear tried to stop.

Declaration: I am not starting over; I am starting stronger.

Transformation Challenge: Identify one unfinished goal from this year and take one action toward it today.

Day 32, Faith in the Fire

Daniel 3:17-18 (NIV), "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Unusual faith stands firm even when the flames rise. It is not about results, it is about resolve. God does not always keep you out of the fire, but He will bring you through it without the smell of smoke.

Prayer: Lord, strengthen me to trust You even in the fire.

Declaration: I will not bow to fear; my faith burns brighter than the flames.

Transformation Challenge: Encourage someone facing a fiery trial. Remind them that God's presence is their protection.

Day 33, Faith That Gives

Luke 6:38 (NIV), "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Faith-filled generosity says, "I trust God with what I release." Giving is not loss; it is investment. You cannot out give a God who has already given everything.

Prayer: God, increase my faith to give freely and fearlessly.

Declaration: I sow in faith and expect a harvest of miracles.

Transformation Challenge: Give a seed this week, whether to a person, a cause, or your church, and name it for what you are believing God to do.

Day 34, Faith That Finishes

Philippians 1:6 (NIV), "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

God does not stop halfway. What He started, He intends to finish, and He is using your endurance as evidence of His excellence.

Prayer: Lord, give me the faith to finish what You started.

Declaration: I am finishing strong because grace will not let me quit.

Transformation Challenge: Review your progress this year. Celebrate how far you have come and thank God that you are still standing.

Day 35, Faith Forward

Habakkuk 2:3 (NIV), "For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."

Unusual faith does not live in nostalgia; it lives in now. God is preparing a future that is already in motion. The next chapter is not coming; it is calling.

Prayer: Lord, I step into the new year with fearless faith and fresh focus.

Declaration: I am walking forward with expectation, elevation, and evidence.

Transformation Challenge: Write a one-line faith declaration for the new year and share it with your accountability partner.

PROPHETIC CLOSING DECLARATION

We declare that this has been an Advent of awakening, a season filled with unusual grace and unusual growth.

We declare that we are no longer waiting for change; we are walking in it.

We declare that the same God who came through a manger still performs miracles through our lives. We step into the new year clothed in Unusual Hope, anchored in Unusual Peace, filled with Unusual Joy, walking in Unusual Love, and activated by Unusual Faith.

We are the Church as Unusual, bold, believing, and unbreakable.

We are not just watching what God will do; we are becoming what God is doing.

And it is so, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 AM
TUESDAY GROUP THERAPY 7:30 PM