



iBelieve 2022

21 Day Devotional Guide

Blessings New Life Disciples,

What a Year 2021 has been, but thanks be unto God our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, we all can declare, WE MADE IT! Pastor Tamika and I cannot thank and praise God enough for your faithfulness, prayers, and commitment. We celebrate each of you and your families and recognize that many of you suffered significant losses and sustained hits that would've taken some out, but you survived and thrived in the midst of it all.

I just wanted to take a retrospective look back over 2021 The Year of the ReSET with you so that we can collectively celebrate and lament together as we look into 2022 through the eyes of faith. In January, we asked the Lord to speak to our hearts issues so that we could be the kind of disciples that reflect His glory. Our desire for Him was to remove anything that would prevent our hearts from experiencing a ReSET. In February, we focused on the story of Grandma's Hands and How We Got Over! Then, while still amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, in March, we looked to the Lord to move us from Pandemic to Perfection by trusting in His Word's great and precious promises, which provided everything that we needed. Finally, in April thru May, we endeavored to Live Life in The Spirit, which challenged us to look to the Spirit of God by waiting on Him as the disciples did in Acts 1 to be endowed with the power to be His witnesses. We even discussed an Upper Room Strategy, which was avoiding the Danger of Analysis Paralysis and that the Ordinary is Positioned for Transformation. June signaled a change for us while fighting the Pandemic; as we transitioned and returned to in-person worship on Father's Day. We learned that Committed Fathers are Committed to Fathering Even When It Hurts, Loves from a Place of Generosity, Knows When to Show Compassion, and a Committed Father is The Initiator of Redeeming Grace! In July, we entered a Season of being Committed to the Word, Worship, and Work of the Kingdom. The Lord ushered us through a #SHIFT in late August and September! He told us to get ready for a slight change in position, direction, or tendency and a holy disruption that interrupted events, activities, or processes that would've taken us off course. Then October thru this present moment, we have been in a Season of Being Tried and Tested. God has been using this last quarter of 2021 to take us through a proofing process to become more effective, established, reputable, foolproof, trustworthy, and reliable in the faith.

Therefore, we had to Count it All Joy, Learn that IT Blessed me, and Obedience is a Journey. Faith Acts When it's Tried and Tested, We have to Watch What We Say, It Is Dangerous to Live Without God, and ultimately Better is Coming! It is my prayer that each of you can look back despite the losses, setbacks, sorrows and still say that you thank God that He has ReSET somethings. We are looking forward to closing

2021 out with you all on Friday, December 31st, at 11:00 pm-12:00 am, as we testify, praise, and share a brief word of encouragement. 2022 will be The Year of iBelieve! Also, be prepared to spend the first 21 Days of 2022 in consecrated prayer as we seek the Lord to give us instruction and revelation in four particular areas: Faith, Family, Finance, and Focus. I am challenging us to write down and declare what we are #Believing God for in these particular areas in 2022.

This 21 Day Devotional Guide is structured in a way that will cause you and me to engage actively in our faith walk through prayer, contemplation (to deeply and thoughtfully consider), and declaration by writing down what we believe God for in 2022.

Believing God With You!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel J. Casey", is positioned above the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pastor Samuel J. Casey

January 1st-5th (FAITH) John 20:30-31

"Starting With the End in Mind":

"30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

John, the gospel writer that bears his name, starts with the end in mind. He doesn't give you his purpose for writing his letter until the end, knowing that we have to sometimes start with the end in mind. John wanted his readers and you and I to think about how you would like something to turn out before you get started. It all starts with believing or having our faith empowered by what we have come to believe. To believe is more than just having facts and information about what one thinks or believes in; one must place their belief in someone, and John says that person is Jesus Christ (Messiah). Therefore, we will build our belief with the end in mind by challenging ourselves to answer the following questions throughout **2022: 1.) What Do We Need to Believe? 2.) What Does It Mean to Believe? 3.) Why Do We Need to Believe?**

Additionally, let us take the next 5 Days to write down what you will believe God for in 2022 in the area of your FAITH and use the following scriptures to pray as you declare what you believe God for 2022:

January 2nd: Do you still have faith in the Word?

John 1:1" In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus as the Word and as God, who is the Word, by writing down what you will believe Him for today and all year.

January 3rd: Do you have faith to trust Him with your now since He was there in the beginning?

John 1:2 "He was with God in the beginning."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus for your NOW even before it come to pass since He was there in the beginning and had you in mind.

January 4th: Do you have faith that since He was there, in the beginning, creating all things, He knows how to make new opportunities for you today?

John 1:3 "All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus as you write down and submit all that you desire to see your faith create in 2022.

January 5th: Believe Him to give you a life that is full of light!

John 1:4-5 "4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to give you a life full of sustenance over stuff and full of light that illuminates a path forward in faith that will empower you to overcome darkness through your faith/belief in Jesus Christ as the Word.

January 6th-10th (FAMILY) A Family Built on Belief and Faith in Jesus in Difficult Times: Use the next 5 Days to believe God for your family, the families of New Life, and those who you are connected to. Trust and believe that God our Father is at work through the completed work of Jesus Christ reviving and restoring our families.

January 6th: John 11:1-3 "Now a man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. 3 So the sisters sent a message to him: "Lord, the one you love is sick."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to give to handle the conditions in your family because you have worshipped in advance and prepared through prayer in previous encounters with Jesus.

January 7th: John 11:4 "4 When Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus in advance for the things happening in your family that are a setup for the glory of God and the glorifying of Jesus the Son of God in your family!

January 8th: John 11:5-6 "5 Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in the delays of Jesus, knowing that He loves your family, is mindful of the needs of your family, and already has a solution for what you and your family require.

January 9th: John 11:7-11 "7 Then after that, he said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again." 8 "Rabbi," the disciples told him, "just now the Jews tried to stone you, and you're going there again?" 9 "Aren't there twelve hours in a day?" Jesus answered. "If anyone walks during the day, he doesn't stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him." 11 He said this, and then he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I'm on my way to wake him up."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to take extreme measures to bring a remedy to you and your family, even if it means that He has to face opposition on the journey. Know that He will complete the assignment concerning you and your family because He has declared over your family that He is on the way to wake someone up in your family who is spiritually, emotionally, and mentally dead, in Jesus's name!

January 10th: John 11:12-27 "12 Then the disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well." 13 Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but they thought he was speaking about natural sleep. 14 So Jesus then told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. 15 I'm glad for you that I wasn't there so that you may believe. But let's go to him." 16 Then Thomas (called "Twin") said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go too so that we may die with him." 17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem (less than two miles away). 19 Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. 20 As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. 22 Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 "Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her. 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. 26 Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to renew life by resurrecting the dead stuff that hinders your family's divine growth and healing. Believe Him to call forth every Lazarus in your family and lose them from every dead thing that has attached themselves to your family. Pray your family moves beyond the perceived delays of Jesus and declare your belief in Him as the resurrection and the life in the present for your family, in Jesus's name!

January 11th-15th (FINANCE): Since our God is a giver and a generous God, His expectation of us is to reflect Him in the area of our finances by putting Him first as our response to His grace.

January 11th: "God Must Be First!" Exodus 13:1-2,12-13

"1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 "Dedicate to me every firstborn among the Israelites. The first offspring to be born, of both humans and animals, belongs to me." 12 you must present all firstborn sons and firstborn male animals to the Lord, for they belong to him. 13 A firstborn donkey may be bought back from the Lord by presenting a lamb or young goat in its place. But if you do not buy it back, you must break its neck. However, you must buy back every firstborn son."

How will you make God first in your life in 2022? We all must wrestle with the question as we affirm our belief in the generosity of God this year individually and as a community. All that will come and shall come will happen when we make the conscious decision to allow the Spirit of God to lead us in making God first.

In Exodus 13, the principle of firstborn/first-fruits or the tithe is introduced and presented as a way to honor God and place Him first in their lives. The Lord says to Moses, as He says to us today, “Dedicate to me every firstborn...” Which means to set aside what belongs to “Me!” God taught the children of Israel who were in the process of getting ready to experience a shift in their lives—moving from an oppressive state in Egypt to moving into their promise to recognize how to give the Lord precedence in their lives. God was saying to them in today’s vernacular everything that comes first in your life from your firstborn to your first job to your first increase/paycheck belongs to me, or it is consecrated, meaning that it is holy. God has a plan for our resources when we obey Him through His Word. Okay, I hear you... Pastor, are you talking about money? YES, I am! I want you to know that there are over 500 verses in the Bible about prayer, nearly 500 verses concerning faith, but there are more than 2,000 verses on the subject of money and possessions. Jesus even talked about money in 16 of His 38 parables. Therefore, we need to grow in our understanding of money, how to handle it according to the Word of God, and how God desires for you and me to become generous in our giving.

Now back to the principle of firstborn/first-fruits or the tithe. According to Old Testament law, the firstborn was either sacrificed or redeemed. There was no third option. Every time one of your livestock animals delivered its firstborn, you were to offer it, or if it was designated unclean you, you had to redeem it with a clean, spotless lamb. To make it plain and clear... The clean firstborn had to be sacrificed, and the unclean firstborn had to be redeemed. With this picture in mind, let’s run to the New Testament to the Gospel of John 1:29 “The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

What inspired John to cry out with such a declaration, and how does this connect to Exodus 13? I was hoping you could stick with me because this is where I need us to mature in our faith walk, believe, and allow Holy Spirit to reveal what may have been hidden for many of us. John perfectly defined the role that Jesus had come to fulfill. Jesus was God’s firstborn. Jesus was clean, perfect, and unblemished in every way.

On the other hand, you and I were born unclean. We were all born sinners with a fully active sin nature because of Adam. Now think back to the principle of the firstborn in Exodus. Remember, God told Moses that it would be sacrificed if the firstborn was clean. But if the firstborn was unclean, it was to be redeemed with a clean animal.

Now let me connect it all for us... Can you see that Jesus Christ was God's firstborn Son, and He was born clean? He was born a pure and spotless lamb. But every one of us was born unclean; therefore, Jesus was sacrificed to redeem us... WOW!!! Wait, did you get that? When He redeemed/saved you and me by His sacrifice on the Cross, He repurchased us for God. He was a firstborn/first-fruits or tithed on our behalf. Jesus was God's tithe. He gave His tithe (Jesus) in faith before we ever believed.

So why should you and I strive with everything in us in 2022 to make God first? Let me offer a few reasons:

- 1.) It reflects our belief and shows that we honor His Word.**
- 2.) It reflects our ability to honor God by giving Him our first and best.**
- 3.) It's a reminder of God's redemptive work in our lives.**

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus, and ask God to challenge you in this area of your faith to make Him first by tithing if you're not a tither or increase your tithe/first-fruits offering if you are.

January 12th: Giving is 10% Head and 90%, Heart:

Matthew 6:19-21 "19 "Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to give you a heart that responds to His Word that you would develop the confidence in Him to trust Him with the treasures of your heart as a generous giver.

January 13th: The Grace of God, Giving amid a Trial, Abundant Joy, Ability, the Privilege of Generosity, and the Act of Grace:

2 Corinthians 8:1-6 "We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia: 2 During a severe trial brought about by affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord, 4 they begged us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints, 5 and not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God's will. 6 So we urged Titus that just as he had begun, so he should also complete among you this act of grace."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to cause His grace to flow through you in giving amid a trial. To have abundant joy in generously giving your time, talent, or treasure as you view it as a privilege of generosity from God and an act of grace.

January 14th: "Excelling in Grace!"

2 Corinthians 8:7-12 "7 Now as you excel in everything—in faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us—excel also in this act of grace. 8 I am not saying this as a command. Rather, by means of the diligence of others, I am testing the genuineness of your love. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. 10 And in this matter I am giving advice because it is profitable for you, who began last year not only to do something but also to want to do it. 11 Now also finish the task, so that just as there was an eager desire, there may also be a completion, according to what you have. 12 For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have."

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to excel in your faith and more extraordinary acts of grace through generosity. Ask Him to test the genuineness of your love by following Jesus's example of giving of Himself so that others may have. In this season of believing God, believe for what you already have instead of what you do not have. Trust Him in this season to finish the task of giving generously through you in Jesus's name!

January 15th: "Motivation for Giving Generously."

2 Corinthians 9:1-9

"Now concerning the ministry to the saints, it is unnecessary for me to write to you. 2 For I know your eagerness, and I boast about you to the Macedonians, 'Achaia has been ready since last year,' and your zeal has stirred up most of them. 3 But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you in this matter would not prove empty, and so that you would be ready just as I said. 4 Otherwise, if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we, not to mention you, would be put to shame in that situation. 5 Therefore I considered it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance the generous gift you promised, so that it will be ready as a gift and not as an extortion. 6 The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion,

since God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work. 9 As it is written: He distributed freely; he gave to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

God wants us to believe Him in the area of our finances. Paul begins a conversation with the believers in Corinthians chapter 8 concerning the ministry of generous giving, a grace gift. He wanted them to be strengthened by not having much but having a heart that would allow them to give in a productive way through their recognition of God's grace. Paul raises the bar in Corinthians chapter 9 drives home to discern our motivation for generous giving. In verse 6, he gives the principle of generous giving when and shows that it's entirely up to the one doing the sowing. In verse 7, he practically shares how we should give. In verse 8, he shares a promise concerning our faithful acts of generous living and giving. Get this Paul says, "God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work." Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to motivate you to live generously more consistently and faithfully in 2022.

January 16th-21st (FOCUS)

For the last six days of our 21 Day, iBelieve Devotion, let's complete what we've started. By pulling all that we've prayed, contemplated, and declared into one singular focus and belief in Jesus that will carry you and me to our expected end of victory!

January 16th: Protected Focus by the Most High God:

Psalms 91:14-15

"14 Because he has his heart set on me, I will deliver him; I will protect him because he knows my name. 15 When he calls out to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. I will rescue him and give him honor. I will satisfy him with a long life and show him my salvation."

When you and I commit our thoughts, ways, and concerns to the Most High God, we can depend on Him to help us maintain our focus on the things that we can handle and surrender those we have no control over. Because God is always mindful of those things that concern us and is aware of those things that come to detour our focus, He has made you and me who are the objects of His affection at least seven promises in this particular Psalm:

- **I will deliver**
- **I will protect**
- **I will answer**

- **I will be with you in trouble**
- **I will rescue and give honor**
- **I will satisfy with extended days**
- **I will give salvation**

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to give you a more determined focus by incorporating these seven promises into your prayers today, knowing that the Lord is watching over His word to perform in our lives.

January 17th: "Focused Expectation."

Psalm 62:5-7 "My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge is in God."

One of the worst things to have is a lingering expectation never fulfilled. It is frustrating at best in our faith walk, but I have come to know over time that my/our expectations have been in all of the wrong things and indeed the wrong people. I am not saying that we should not have expectations of one another but what I am saying is that we can rest when our soul wait's silently for God, who alone can be trusted to come through for us. So our challenge today is to submit our soul (thinking, emotions, and will) to:

1. **Waiting silently on God alone.**
2. **Expect only Him to fulfill our expectations that can only be fulfilled by Him alone.**
3. **Declare that He is your rock.**
4. **Know that He is your defense.**
5. **Declare that you shall not be moved when things start to shift your focus.**
6. **Declare that He is your strength.**
7. **Trust that He will be your refuge in the midst of it all. Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to give you a determined focus in Him.**

January 18th: "Get Rid of It!"

1 Peter 2:1 "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander."

We must fight and challenge ourselves in this season to intentionally focus on God's purpose and plan for our lives. But if we do not rid our lives of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander, we cannot have a focused heart and mind ready to receive from the Lord. I like how Eugene Peterson translates this verse in the Message Translation: **"So clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful talk."** Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to give you the kind of focus that empowers you to **Get Rid of It!**

January 19th: "Focused!"

Colossians 3:1-2

"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Since you and I have been raised to new life in Christ, we have been given everything we need to live a focused life in Him. The challenge is not to submit ourselves to wasting time on things in the natural without placing them in their proper perspective. Instead, we should ask ourselves some questions:

- 1. Is this something that I can change?**
- 2. Will this rob me of my peace?**
- 3. Is this a distraction that is trying to steal me of my focus?**

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to give you the kind of focus to keep your mindset on things above and not below no matter what comes.

January 20th: "First Things First!"

Matthew 6:33 "33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you."

We are often robbed of our focus because we seek God's things in the wrong places and often in nonspiritual Holy Spirit-led people. Jesus reveals the key to having the kind of focus that grants the child of God success every time... **"seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness..."** Jesus says that if you and I have the kind of focus that reduces our anxiety and stress, it will start by doing First Things First, seeking the kingdom plan and the way that leads to the right decisions. Ultimately, His promise to us is that... **"all these things will be provided for you."**

Pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus to lead you through the Holy Spirit to commit to doing First Things First; seek the kingdom plan!

January 21st: "Confident and Focused."
Psalms 57:7 "7 My heart is confident, God, my heart is confident.
I will sing; I will sing praises."

There is nothing like being confident and focused. That is my prayer for you during this season that you have committed your life to seek God best for your life these last twenty-one days. I pray that your confidence has grown, your trust in Jesus Christ is strengthened, and that you're becoming more focused as you believe God for your faith, family, finances, and focus. Use this last day to pray, contemplate, declare your trust and belief in Jesus that will carry you through 2022. Write down what you believe God for and post it somewhere that you will see every day so that you are reminded of what you and the Lord have developed during your time of devotion. This will be a visible sign and affirmation to your time with God, and like we will declare... ***"I will sing; I will sing praises."***

Now that you have completed these twenty-one days, share with someone what the Lord has shown you and spoken to you as a way to build up their faith. I would even like to hear what the Lord has revealed, what challenged you, and what decisions you've made to respond to the challenge and call of God on your life.

#iBelieve,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel J. Casey', written over a light blue grid background.

Pastor Samuel J. Casey