

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

The Zion Informer

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PASTOR'S NICHE

At the beginning of this year I preached a sermon series under the theme, "A Declaration of Spiritual Growth." In the sermon series, I identified seven objectives - that, if pursued - would lead to spiritual growth.

Most of us agreed to pursue these goals and received a booklet to help us track our progress. Now that we are entering the tenth month, it is time for a checkup to examine our progress, to make adjustments, to do what is necessary to ensure that we'll meet our goals by the end of this year.

I am reprinting our declaration in this article for those of you who were here at the beginning of the New Year - to facilitate your review process. For those of you who were not here, I invite you to pray over this declaration, asking God to direct you regarding your use of this declaration. If you feel led to use this tool, I encourage you to get the sermon series from the Media Ministry to give you the background information for this *declaration of spiritual growth*.

As you review this declaration, I pray that you will hear the voice of James - the half brother of Jesus and the writer of the Book of James - "*Be doers of the Word and not hearers only.*"

Declaration of Spiritual Growth

I publicly declare that I will commit to developing an action plan that will enable me to achieve the following:

- ❖ *I will maintain a personal and intimate relationship with God that is fulfilling and fruitful.*
- ❖ *I will make seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness the first pursuit in my life.*
- ❖ *I will make seeking and maintaining healthy and empowering relationships with people the second pursuit in my life.*
- ❖ *I will seek out Godly people to serve as my mentors and accountability partners for the purpose of helping me reach my full potential in Christ Jesus. I will also reciprocate that role for others.*
- ❖ *I will adopt a lifestyle that promotes wholeness in every area of my life.*
- ❖ *I will be fully committed and engaged in the work of at least one ministry in my church. I will commit to a financial freedom plan that includes tithing, the elimination of consumer debt and saving at least 10% of my net income.*

I Care"

"I Care" is an innovative and comprehensive approach to parental involvement and character development. This is a national curriculum to be implemented in school systems nationwide. We will post the official character words for this curriculum every month. The "I Care" Pillar of Character Words for the month of October are: **Self-Confidence** (Elementary School); **Confident** (Middle School); and **Courage** (High School).

