

What Does God Have in Store?



2026

A WORD THAT WALKS WITH YOU

A Guided Reflection for Discovering Your Word for the Year
“One thing I ask from the Lord, This only do I Seek.” Psalm 27:4

This guide is not about choosing a clever theme. It is about listening for an invitation—a word God may use to shape your life with Him in the year ahead.

1. ARRIVE — SLOW YOUR SOUL

Pause. Take three slow breaths.

Pray quietly: “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3:10)

Release the need to figure this out. God is already present.

2. ATTEND — NOTICE WHAT IS STIRRING

What desire keeps surfacing in me lately?

Where do I sense restlessness or longing?

What part of my life feels most in need of God’s attention?

Write below:

3. LISTEN — LET A WORD RISE

Read one of the following passages slowly:

Psalm 27; John 15:1–11; Matthew 11:28–30; Galatians 5:22–25; Colossians 3:1–4

Notice a word or phrase that lingers.

Write it here:

4. DISCERN — TEST THE WORD

Does this word draw me closer to Jesus?

Does it align with Scripture?

Does it invite transformation rather than performance?

My Word for the Year:

5. PRACTICE — CARRY IT WITH YOU

How might this word shape my prayers or habits?

One simple practice:

6. COMMIT — PLACE THE YEAR IN GOD’S HANDS

“Lord, I offer You this year. Let this word be Your gift, not my burden. Form me into the likeness of Christ, one faithful step at a time. Amen.”

7. REVIEW— QUARTERLY CHECK IN:

It is easy to start something but then it fades over time. Take this little check in list and use it throughout the year.

Winter: What is being Planted?

Spring: What is growing?

Summer: What is practiced?

Fall: What fruit is evident?

The Dangers of choosing a word for the year

Keep in mind that a word for the year is not extra ordinary spiritual encounter with God. It is simply a way to engage with God throughout the year through a word, which will help

⚠️ 1. It Can Turn into a Personalized Prosperity Gospel

People may pick words that promise outcomes God never promised: “Breakthrough,” “Success,” “Victory,” “Abundance.” When life doesn’t deliver, disillusionment follows.

Danger: Expectation of a particular kind of year rather than faithfulness within whatever year God gives.

Proper Focus: Choose character words rather than circumstantial words — e.g. faithfulness, trust, courage, surrender, presence.

⚠️ 2. It Can Reduce Spiritual Formation to Trendy Self-Improvement

We already have a younger generation that swims in a sea of “choose your mantra,” “pick your vibe,” “set your intention.” This is not about baptizing secular self-improvement language if it’s not careful.

Danger: It is easy to think the word works because it’s inspiring, not because it’s anchored in Christ.

Proper Focus: A word for the year is a long obedience in the same direction (thank you, Eugene Peterson). It’s not a motivational slogan. It’s a spiritual apprenticeship rhythm.

⚠️ 3. It Can Eclipse the Full Counsel of Scripture

A single word is not the Bible. If you lean too hard on your word, you can ignore whole areas of Scripture that challenge or contradict it.

Danger: You create a narrow lens that shapes your entire year.

Example: If someone’s word is rest, they may avoid disciplines of sacrifice or perseverance. If the word is courage, they might ignore seasons where God invites gentleness and mourning.

Proper Focus: Remember that the word is a companion to Scripture, not a replacement.

⚠️ 4. It Can Create Spiritual Pressure or Anxiety

Some people feel panicked if they can’t find “the right word.” Others fear they’ll choose the “wrong word” and miss God’s will. Some may use the word to judge their progress — “I’m failing at joyÖ again.”

Danger: A Spiritual discipline can become a burden rather than an invitation.

Proper Focus: All spiritual disciplines are optional and gentle — not a command. God’s love isn’t tied to performance. A word for the year is a guide, not a law.

⚠️ 5. It Can Encourage Hyper-Individualism

North American Christianity already tilts toward privatized spirituality. A “personal word for the year” can unintentionally reinforce that trend.

Danger: My year becomes about my word, my growth, my inner story — disconnected from the Body.

Proper Focus: Share your word with trusted friends or a small group. Formation happens in community, not isolation. Let it be something you journey towards Jesus together.

⚠️ 6. It May Disconnect People from the Slow, Patient Work of God

A single-word focus may feel like a shortcut to transformation. But spiritual maturity requires long seasons of pruning, waiting, repetition, and surrender.

Danger: If there's no quick change, you may feel like you "chose the wrong word" rather than recognizing the Spirit's slow craftsmanship.

Proper Focus: Let the word become a year-long companion, not an instant catalyst.

⚠️ 7. It Risks Becoming a Substitute for Listening to the Spirit Throughout the Year

If you think God only speaks at the start of January, you might ignore His ongoing invitations.

Danger: Anchoring to a single word while missing the daily voice of God.

Proper Focus: Keep the practice flexible and open. God can refine, shift, expand, or replace the word.

Be Creative

As mentioned before, it can be easy to start with the intention of keeping the word of the year prominent in our lives, but time can cause us to lose sight of our great intentions. Below are a few suggestions as to how to keep the "Word of the Year" prominent throughout the year.

- Create something on the computer.



- Draw or paint your word



- Stick a Post-it-note on your mirror



- Write it on a rock or a piece of wood

