

## **Biography of Jerel Rhodes**

Pastor Jerel Rhodes was ordained as the Senior Pastor of Kingdom Life Ministries International on February 23, 2025. He was born and raised in Roanoke, Virginia, to his loving parents, Jimmy Rhodes and Joyce Ann Rhodes. From an early age, faith and community played a vital role in his life, as he was nurtured in Kingdom Life from a young age.

Jerel is a devoted husband to Rhonda Chambers Rhodes, and together they are the proud parents of four beautiful children: Jerel II, Jady, Jase, and Jerrah.

A product of the Roanoke community, Jerel graduated from William Fleming High School before pursuing higher education at Norfolk State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology. His passion for education and youth mentorship led him to further his studies at Radford University, where he obtained a Master of Science degree in Educational Counseling.

Jerel began his career in 1998 with Roanoke City Public Schools and has since dedicated 27 years to serving as a School Counselor. He now holds the position of School Counseling Coordinator at William Fleming High School, where he works tirelessly to equip students with the tools they need to succeed. Beyond his career in education, Jerel has also answered the call to ministry. After growing up in Kingdom Life Ministries, Intl, he went on to serve as a Youth Pastor and was later ordained as a Pastor on February 10, 2019. His commitment to both education and faith has allowed him to inspire and uplift countless individuals in his community.

Jerel is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and has been recognized numerous times for his service and leadership. He has received multiple awards and honors from the City of Roanoke and various civic and professional organizations in recognition of his dedication to the youth of the Roanoke Valley.

Guided by his faith and passion for mentorship, Jerel lives by two powerful mottos: "We exist, therefore, we succeed" and "Exposure is the key to maximizing one's potential." These principles have been the driving force behind Jerel's ministry and community service, shaping his mission to uplift and empower the next generation.

A visionary leader, a man of faith, and a committed mentor, Jerel has dedicated his life to ensuring that no barrier, statistic, or obstacle prevents young people from fulfilling their destiny. This passion led him to establish Rebounding Roanoke, a progressive, education-based nonprofit organization devoted to uplifting the youth of the Greater Roanoke Valley. The organization's flagship programs, the Renaissance Academy and ELLE Academy, provide young people with opportunities for growth, development, and success.

Through his unwavering faith, strong leadership, and deep commitment to service, Pastor Jerel Rhodes continues to be a beacon of hope and inspiration for his family, community, and future generations.