



KINSTON FIRST
PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH

MESSAGE REWIND

SERMON NOTES & STUDY GUIDE

Reflect. Discuss. Apply.

Sermon Series: “Everyday Faith” (Study of the Book of James)

**Sermon Title: “Faith That Stays In Step With God”
(James 4:8-16)**

Date: Sunday, October 5th

In this message, Pastor Brian shared how faith stays in step with God by living close to Him, loving others the right way, and looking ahead with eternity in view. Using a story from his high school band days, he described how being out of rhythm throws everything off. In the same way, when believers get out of rhythm with God, life loses its harmony.

James teaches that our faith must stay in step with God’s leading. We must draw near to Him, live humbly, treat others with grace, and remember that life is short. Every day is a gift from God, and we are called to live it in step with His will.

Message Rewind:

1) Live Close: Faith That Pursues God

Scripture: James 4:8-10; Psalm 73:28; Hebrews 10:22

Big Idea: You are as close to God as you choose to be.

Explanation: James reminds us to draw near to God, and He will draw near to us. Being close to God requires daily choices. For example, reading His Word, spending time in prayer, and living with a clean heart. When we make Him a priority, He lifts us up.

Illustration: Pastor Brian compared this to marching in the band. When everyone stayed in rhythm, it was powerful. But when someone got out of step, it threw everything off. Staying close to God keeps our rhythm of life steady and strong.

2) Love Right: Faith That Practices Grace

- **Scripture:** James 4:11-12; Matthew 7:1-5; John 7:24

Big Idea: Real faith treats others with grace, not judgment.

Explanation: James warns believers not to speak evil or judge one another. Judging from a proud heart brings division, but discernment led by the Holy Spirit brings restoration. Jesus said to first remove the plank from your own eye before you address the speck in someone else's. When our hearts are right with God, we can help others with love and compassion.

Illustration: Pastor Brian reminded us that Jesus corrected people with love. Whether it was the woman caught in adultery or the woman at the well, He always led with compassion.

3) Look Ahead: Faith That Plans With Perspective

- **Scripture:** James 4:13-16; Proverbs 27:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Big Idea: Life is short, so live every day in God's will.

Explanation: James says life is like a vapor, here for a moment and then gone. We often make plans for tomorrow, but only God knows what the future holds. A life in step with God recognizes that every breath is a gift. We must live wisely and plan with humility, always saying, "If the Lord wills."

Illustration: Pastor Brian shared that time passes quickly, just like the vapor James described. He reminded us that one day we will see Jesus face to face, and our lives today determine our eternity.

Rewind and Reflect: Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to stay "in rhythm" with God?
- How can you make time daily to draw closer to Him?
- Why is it important to approach others with grace instead of judgment?
- How does remembering that life is short change your priorities?

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for a closer walk with God each day.
- Ask for a heart of humility and grace toward others.
- Surrender your plans to God's will.
- Thank Him for every moment of life and the promise of eternity with Him.

Memory Verse:

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” ***James 4:8 (NKJV)***

Key Takeaway:

Faith that stays in step with God lives close, loves right, and looks ahead. When you walk in rhythm with Him, your life will stay in tune with His purpose.