



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 Flourishes In A Fallen World”  
(James 3:13-18, James 4:1-7)**

**Date: Sunday, September 28th**

We live in a broken, fallen world where sin, confusion, and selfishness often rule the day. James, writing to the early church, reminds us that real faith does not disappear when under the weight of a fallen world. Instead, true faith can grow and even flourish when it is rooted in God’s wisdom, surrendered from selfish desires, and submitted to His authority.

Pastor Brian reminded us that Christian maturity is not about how long you have been saved, but how much you allow the Spirit of God to transform you. Like a silversmith refining silver until he can see his reflection, God allows pressures, struggles, and trials to remove the impurities in our lives so that His image can be seen in us.

James contrasts two ways of living. There is following **earthly wisdom**, which leads to pride, strife, and confusion, or receiving **heavenly wisdom**, which brings purity, peace, and good fruit. He also exposes how unchecked desires create fights, quarrels, and dissatisfaction, leading us away from God. The answer is not in willpower, but in God’s power. It is surrendering daily to God’s Spirit and humbling ourselves before Him. When we submit to God and resist the devil, the promise of Scripture is very clear. What is that promise? The enemy **MUST** flee!

## Message Rewind:

### 1) Faith Seeks Wisdom From Above (James 3:13-18)

- Scripture: James 3:13–18; Isaiah 5:21; Proverbs 2:6

- **Big Idea:** James reminds believers that wisdom is shown not just by what we know, but by how we live. Earthly wisdom is based on pride, selfishness, and human reasoning. It is driven by envy and personal ambition, and it produces strife and confusion. Heavenly wisdom, however, is pure, peaceable, gentle, merciful, and full of good fruit. It is not hypocritical or partial, but it reflects God's heart.
- **Illustration:** Pastor Brian shared the picture of the silversmith refining silver. The silver is ready only when the silversmith can see his reflection. In the same way, God refines us until Christ's reflection shines through.
- **Application:** Ask God for wisdom in daily life. Wisdom is not just knowledge but the skill to apply truth in every situation. Each day, pray: *"Lord, give me wisdom from above to walk in Your ways."* In James 1:5 we are reminded that if we lack wisdom ask of God and He will give it freely.

## 2) Faith Surrenders the Desire To Cause Strife (James 4:1-3)

- **Scripture:** James 4:1–3; Galatians 5:16,17; Romans 7:14–25
- **Big Idea:** James explains that fights, quarrels, and conflicts often come from desires that battle inside of us. Our flesh craves satisfaction, but no matter how much it gets, it remains empty. When we seek selfish gain, pray with wrong motives, or envy others, our desires lead us into conflict instead of peace. True faith surrenders these desires to God.
- **Illustration:** The Titanic was called unsinkable, but one iceberg proved otherwise. Pride in our flesh is the same. Pride leads to downfall. Pastor Brian also described the tug-of-war Paul mentions in **Romans 7:14-25**, where the flesh pulls one way and the Spirit the other. Victory comes only when we surrender fully to God. It is by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit that He enables us where we can say no to sin and yes to holiness.
- **Application:** Daily surrender is needed. Lay selfish desires at the cross and invite the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit He produces is love, joy, peace, and self-control in place of strife.

## 3) Faith Submits To God's Authority (James 4:6,7)

- **Scripture:** James 4:6,7; 1 Peter 5:6–9; 2 Corinthians 6:17, 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- **Big Idea:** James teaches that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humility is the key to living under God's blessing and authority. Submission to God means placing every part of life under His control. It also means resisting the world, the flesh, and the devil. These three enemies work daily against our faith, but God's grace equips us to stand firm.
- **Illustration:** Pastor Brian compared sanctification to clean dishes being set apart for use. Dirty dishes cannot be used until they are washed and separated.

Likewise, God sets us apart as sanctified vessels for His service.

- **Application:** Live with humility. Let go of pride and self-reliance. Resist the devil by standing firmly on God's Word and leaning on His grace. Live as one set apart for Christ.

## Rewind and Reflect: Discussion Questions:

- What is the difference between earthly wisdom and heavenly wisdom in your life?
- What selfish desires or fleshly battles most often create conflict for you?
- How have you seen pride lead to downfall, either in your life or in others?
- What does it practically mean for you to submit to God and resist the devil this week?
- How can sanctification, being set apart by God, change the way you live daily?

## Prayer Focus:

- Pray for God's heavenly wisdom in your decisions and relationships.
- Ask the Lord to reveal any selfish desires that are stirring strife in your life.
- Humble yourself before God and surrender control to Him.
- Pray for strength to resist the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- Thank God for His grace that empowers you to live a sanctified life.

## Memory Verse:

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." **James 4:7 (NKJV)**

## Key Takeaway:

Faith flourishes in a fallen world when we seek wisdom from above, surrender selfish desires, and submit fully to God's authority. With humility and the Spirit's power, we can live as sanctified vessels that display the image of Christ. *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* **John 3:30 (NKJV)**