



KINSTON FIRST  
PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH

# MESSAGE REWIND

SERMON NOTES & STUDY GUIDE

*Reflect. Discuss. Apply.*

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

**Message: “Faith That Stands the Test” (James 1:9-18)**

**Date: August 17, 2025**

Life is full of tests, from school exams to the trials we face as followers of Jesus. In this message, Pastor Brian explains how James teaches that both the rich and the poor will face struggles and temptations, but faith that stands the test keeps its focus on God. Through trials we gain perspective, through temptation we rely on God’s strength, and through it all we remember that every good and perfect gift comes from Him.

## Message Rewind (In Simple Words):

Life is full of tests. From spelling tests in school to driving tests, job evaluations, and even the eye test at the DMV, tests show what we really know. Spiritually, our faith is tested too. James reminds us that both the rich and the poor face trials and temptations. No one is exempt.

James tells us that faith is proven not just by what we say but by how we respond to life’s struggles. When trials come, we must keep the right perspective. Our faith is not measured by money or status but by our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Temptation is also part of life. The Bible is clear that God does not tempt us. Instead, temptation comes from our own desires and from the enemy. The good news is that God always provides a way of escape. When we are hungry, angry, lonely, or tired, we must be especially alert because that is when temptation often feels the strongest.

In the end, James teaches us that every good and perfect gift comes from God. Trials will come, but God gives us strength through the Holy Spirit to stand firm. Faith that stands the test trusts God, resists temptation, and gives Him praise no matter what.

## Bible Verses To Read:

- **James 1:13–15** – Temptation comes from our own desires, not from God.

- **1 Corinthians 10:13** – God always provides a way of escape when we are tempted.
- **Hebrews 2:18** – Jesus was tempted, so He can help us when we are tempted.
- **Matthew 4:1–11** – Jesus overcomes temptation in the wilderness.

## Rewind and Reflect: Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the “tests” you have faced in life? How did you respond?
- Why does James say both the poor and the rich face the same trials in life?
- How can keeping the right perspective help us face struggles with faith?
- What does James mean when he says that temptation comes from our own desires?
- How can remembering that every good and perfect gift comes from God help us when life feels unfair?
- What is one way you can strengthen your faith to stand the tests you may face this week?

## Prayer Focus:

- Pray for strength to face trials with faith and courage.
- Ask God to help you resist temptation and stay strong in your walk with Him.
- Thank God for every good and perfect gift that He provides.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you when life feels overwhelming.
- Lift up others who are going through tests right now, asking God to give them peace and endurance

## Memory Verse:

**“Blessed is the man who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”**

***James 1:12 (NKJV)***

## Encouragement For the Week:

Life’s tests may feel heavy, but God is faithful. Trials grow your faith, and He always makes a way through temptation. This week, remind yourself: **My faith is being tested, but my God is faithful.**