

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com

E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE

WHEN FAITH GETS TESTED

SERIES

REAL FAITH COSTS

DATE

7/19/2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

James 1:1-18

SYNOPSIS

The trial you didn't ask for might be exactly what your faith needs to become real.

HIGHLIGHTS



BIG IDEA

Your hardest days aren't wasted — they're where God is quietly growing something real in you.

James 1:2 — "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds..."

Notes:

IT'S A TEST, NOT A TRICK

A trial is something that happens to you — a circumstance God allows, to grow you. A temptation is something that pulls at you — a desire that was never His idea. Trials aren't an interruption. They're the training.

"Trials don't interrupt the plan. Trials are the plan, working."

James 1:2-4 — "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Notes:

WISDOM ISN'T OUTSMARTING YOUR PROBLEM; IT'S ASKING FOR HELP WITH IT

Wisdom isn't cleverness or good advice — it's knowing how to walk faithfully through what you can't fully see the end of. God gives it generously, without finding fault.

James 1:5 — "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

Notes:

WHAT LOOKS LIKE THE BOTTOM MIGHT ACTUALLY BE THE TOP

James flips status upside down — what looks like being at the bottom, in God's economy, might be exaltation. What looks like the top might fade before the day's over.

James 1:12 — "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

Notes:



THE REAL BATTLE STARTS LONG BEFORE THE SIN DOES

Desire → Conception → Birth → Growth → Death. Nobody wakes up and commits the sin that ruins everything — it was conceived long before it was born

James 1:14-15 — "...after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

Notes:

HE ISN'T WASTING YOUR HARD DAYS

God isn't a different God on your hard days than He is on your easy ones. Trials don't get the final say — a Father who hasn't stopped giving good gifts does.

James 1:16-18 — "Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created."

Notes:

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Some of you are in the middle of something right now that feels like static — noise to survive and forget as fast as possible. James says something's actually happening in it. Don't spend today's hard thing trying to make sense of it alone. Ask for wisdom instead of an escape hatch. Trust that this isn't wasted.

"Don't waste what God isn't wasting."

Notes:
