

## **Fresh Start: 2025**

James 1:2-8

2024 in review

1. Resolve
- 2. Woke Yet?**
- 3. Love Intentionally**
- 4. Ever ask Why?**
- 5. Seven Things to Destroy Your Life**
6. Thanksgiving
7. Advent

(Video)

---

Music

Message Part 2

---

## **Fresh Start: 2025**

James 1:2-8

**2024**

- Did it go as expected?
- Did you have any surprises?
- Did you have any successes?
- Did you meet your goals?

**\*\*If you knew on December 31st of last year what you know about your life now....**

Would you be proud of yourself?  
(Would you want this year to be exactly like last year?)

---

**Discipline:** Choosing what we want most more than what we want now.

**\*\*The second Friday of the new year (1/10/2025) is called quitters day.**

*When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates— 2 Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: “Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.”*

*But they were scheming to harm me; 3 so I sent messengers to them with this reply: “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you? Nehemiah 6:1-3*

*4 Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer. Nehemiah 6:4*

---

### **Theology of trying**

**\*\*The reason most of us fail is because we’ve decided to try.**

Trying is based on emotion and hope.

Training is based on commitment and expects and prepares for difficulty.

### **Training vs. Trying**

*2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 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. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 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. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. James 1:2-8*

**Wisdom:** When we see like God sees, we do what God says.

---

**When we try...**

We quit when we feel like it - or an excuse comes that seems big enough to let ourselves off the hook.

**When we train...**

We don't quit because we are prepared for adversity and we expect that any goal worth achieving takes effort and self-discipline.

**Difficulty:** Ask God to use it until he removes it.

**What would the '10 year ago you' say about today you?**

**Faith**  
**Fitness**  
**Family**  
**Finances**  
**Friendship**