Scriptures, Notes, & Questions for Message 11-15-26

Key Scriptures

- **Main Scripture:** James 1:2-4
- **Supporting Passage:** Hebrews 5:14

Key Takeaways:

- Every single one of us has unfinished work in our souls, and we don't need to be afraid of it.
- Unlike people who quit halfway through a project, God never gets tired and never runs out of resources to finish what He started in us.
- However, God will not force His work on us—we have to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and "let it grow" by choosing endurance instead of looking for an easy exit when life gets uncomfortable.
- God didn't call us to be "ornamental Christians" who just sit around looking nice; He is training our spiritual muscles so we can grow into strong, healthy trees that bear real fruit.
- When we fill ourselves up with Jesus, we realize we lack nothing in Him and lose our appetite for things that hurt our spiritual growth.

Discussion Questions

1. **Unfinished Projects:** God never leaves a project half-done. How does it make you feel to know that God is still patiently working on you and isn't tired of helping you grow?
2. **Choosing the Hard Way:** Sometimes the right thing to do and the hard thing to do are the exact same thing. When is a time you wanted to quit something tough, and what helped you keep going?
3. **No Easy Exits:** When life or a relationship gets uncomfortable, our first instinct is often to look for an exit. What is one area in your life right now where God is asking you to stay put and keep showing up?
4. **Cooperating With God:** God won't force us to grow—we have to let Him work in us. What are some everyday choices we can make to help God shape us instead of fighting against Him?
5. **Ornament or Fruit Tree:** The message compared being an "ornamental Christian" (just sitting there like a decoration) to being a fruit tree that actually produces good things. What does "bearing fruit" look like in your daily life at home, school, or work?
6. **Spiritual Muscles:** Just like lifting weights builds physical strength, going through hard times trains our "spiritual muscles". How has a past struggle made your faith stronger today?

7. **Filling Up on Jesus:** When you eat a really good, healthy meal, you don't crave junk food anymore. What happens in your life when you spend real time filling up on Jesus?
8. **Taking a Next Step:** What is one thing God is trying to grow or fix in you right now that you need to say "yes" to this week?