



Perfecting Faith: The Book of James

Faith and Future Plans

Making Godly Plans

A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. Pro 16:9

Life may be a vapor, appearing for a little time and then vanishing—but like Old Faithful, we need to be faithful in all our ways and use our time wisely for our Lord. Plan well to use what He has given you in time.

Introduction: The key to understanding this passage is to keep in mind that James is talking about making plans where God's will has not been revealed in His Word.

A. Plan with a godly perspective James 4:13

My future is uncertain...The issue here is 'what we say' verses what we OUGHT to say! Compare vs :13 and :15

God DOES NOT guarantee our plans:

1. Location of my plans "go to such and such a city..."
2. Timing of my plans "spend a year there..."
3. Activities of my plans "engage in business..."
4. Outcome of my plans "make a profit..."

B. Plan with a Godly faith James 4:14

My future is fragile...God has designed it this way! If we could do it ourselves we would not have any need for God and no need for faith!

"Do not boast about tomorrow,

For you do not know what a day may bring forth." Pro 27:1

1. What is your life? Luke 12:16-32; 28

C. Plan with a godly submission James 4:15

If the Lord wills...here is what I need to say where God's will is not evident from His word.

1 Cor 4:19 "But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power."

1 Cor 16:7 "For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits."

D. Plan with a godly obedience James 4:16-17

Act on God's known will...there are many things that we do not know—but for the things that we do know (*the will of God from His word*): If we don't do them it is sin.

1. God's known will on marriage 2 Cor 6:14
2. God's known will on your work Col 3:23-24
3. God's known will about possessions Mat 6:19
4. God's known will about love John 15:12

Today and Tomorrow

James 4:13-17

:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

:14 whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

:15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

:16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Knowing God's Will

1. Does God want you to know His will? Acts 22:14

2. What should be your attitude to know God's will? John 7:17

3. How should you pray to know God's will? Col 1:9

4. Who will help you understand God's will? Eph 5:17

5. How do you prove the will of God? Rom 12:2