

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. James 4:13-17 (NIV)

A Mist

Your life is like a mist that is here today and gone tomorrow. Your life is like the blink of an eye. Your life is like a snap of the fingers. Before you know it your life on this earth will be gone. Do you want to make the best use of your life? Do you want to wisely use the time that you have been given? I know that my time on this earth is racing by. I can't tell you how many times I have said that something that happened years ago seems like yesterday. I ask where has time gone. You have no need to convince me on this point. So, I don't want to waste the time that I have been given. Yes, I want to make the best use of my time and my life. How can I make the best and wisest use of my time? **That is a very good question.**

At the end of your life what will you be glad that you have gone and done? When you come to live forever in heaven with me what will you want to show me? What fruit will your life have born for my kingdom? What glory will you have brought to my name? At the end of my life I will be glad that I have gone and done your will. When I come to live forever in heaven with you I want to show you the fruit I have born for your kingdom. I will want you to see how I have brought glory to your name. **That will be very good. If you want to bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name what will you stop doing and what will you start doing?** I will stop making my own elaborate plans for my life. I will start and keep on asking you what is your will and what are your plans for my life. I will make it my priority to know and do your will. I will go where you guide me. I will do all that you ask of me. **How will you be able to know and do my will?** I will live in a close and intimate relationship with you. I will meet with you in your word. I will allow you to speak into my life. I will listen carefully to all that you say to me. I will live my life in constant dialogue of prayer with you. **That will be very good. Then you will be able to know and do my will. Then you will make the best and wisest use of your time in this life as you follow and serve me.**

Lord, I don't want to live out my plans for my life. I want to live out the plans you have for my life. I want to know and do your will. I want to go where you guide me. I want to do all that you ask of me. Help me make the best use of the time I have been given. Amen

So God's Will*If It Is The Lord's Will*

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

NIV

James 4:13-17

So God's Will*If The Lord Wants Us To*

Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you are boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil. Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

NLT

James 4:13-17

So God's Will*If The Lord's Wishes*

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin.

NRSV

James 4:13-17

So God's Will*If The Lord Is Willing*

Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such *and* such a city and spend a year there and carry on our business and make money. Yet you do not know [the least thing] about what may happen tomorrow. What is the nature of your life? You are [really] but a wisp of vapor (a puff of smoke, a mist) that is visible for a little while and then disappears [into thin air]. You ought instead to say, If the Lord is willing, we shall live and we shall do this or that [thing]. But as it is, you boast [falsely] in your presumption *and* your self-conceit. All such boasting is wrong. So any person who knows what is right to do but does not do it, to him it is sin.

AMP

James 4:13-17

So God's Will*If The Lord Wills*

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, *you ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

NASB

James 4:13-17

So God's Will*If The Lord Wills*

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

ESV

James 4:13-17

So God's Will*If The Lord Will's*

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"; 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. Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

NKJV

James 4:13-17

So God's Will*If The Master Wills*

And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, "Today—at the latest, tomorrow—we're off to such and such a city for the year. We're going to start a business and make a lot of money." You don't know the first thing about tomorrow. You're nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing. Instead, make it a habit to say, "If the Master wills it and we're still alive, we'll do this or that." As it is, you are full of your grandiose selves. All such vaunting self-importance is evil. In fact, if you know the right thing to do and don't do it, that, for you, is evil.

MSG

James 4:13-17

So God's Will*If The Lord Wants Us*

Look here, you people who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to such and such a town, stay there a year, and open up a profitable business." How do you know what is going to happen tomorrow? For the length of your lives is as uncertain as the morning fog—now you see it; soon it is gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we shall live and do this or that." Otherwise you will be bragging about your own plans, and such self-confidence never pleases God. Remember, too, that knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin.

TLB

James 4:13-17

So God's Will*If The Lord's Wants*

Some of you say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to some city. We will stay there a year, do business, and make money." But you do not know what will happen tomorrow! Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away. So you should say, "If the Lord wants, we will live and do this or that." But now you are proud and you brag. All of this bragging is wrong. Anyone who knows the right thing to do, but does not do it, is sinning.

NCV

James 4:13-17

If It Is The Lord's Will

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

God's Will – James 4:13-17

In Context: *Read James 4*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. James 4:13-17 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Now listen, | you | who say, | "Today | or | tomorrow | we will | go | to this | or that | city, | spend | a year there, | carry on business | and | make money." | Why, | you | do not | even know | what will | happen tomorrow. | What is | your life? | You are | a mist | that appears | for a | little while | and then | vanishes. | Instead, | you ought | to say, | "If it is | the Lord's will, | we will | live | and | do this | or | that." | As it is, | you boast | and | brag. | All such boasting | is evil. | Anyone, | then, | who knows | the good | he ought | to do | and | doesn't | do it, | sins. James 4:13-17 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I don't want to live out my plans for my life. I want to live out the plans you have for my life. I want to know and do your will. I want to go where you guide me. I want to do all that you ask of me. Help me make the best use of the time I have been given. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you made elaborate plans without asking the Lord about them?

Why is it foolish to make plans without asking the Lord about His plan for your life?

When have you made tragic mistakes because you made plans without asking the Lord about them?

Why does the shortness of life make it even more important that you ask the Lord about your plans?

When has the Lord changed the plans that you had in mind?

Why would you prefer the Lord's plans over your own plans?

How has the Lord guided, guarded and blessed your life as you have followed His plans?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make it your everyday practice to ask the Lord to guide you in the plans that He has for your life.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will show you the plans that He has for your life.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has shown you plans that He has for your life.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you make it your priority to know and do the Lord's will.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will make it my priority to know and do your will.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I make the best use of my time by knowing and doing your will today?
