

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)

Your Plans

What are your plans? That sounds like a trick question to me. **It might be, why do you think so?** You want me to discuss my plans with you. If I have made elaborate plans without discussing them with you, that is not good. That is a huge problem. **Why is that?** You want me to know and do your will. You want me to be able to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. You want me to store up treasure in heaven with you. Plans that don't have you in them will amount to nothing of lasting and eternal value. Plans to pursue all that this world has to offer will surely result in a wasted and misspent life. I don't want to waste and misspend my life. One day I want to hear you say, "Well done good and faithful servant." Nothing will give me more pleasure and joy than knowing that I have gone and done your will. I will have no greater happiness than knowing that I have lived a life that was pleasing to you. **That is very good.**

So, better questions, that are not a trick questions, would be my asking, "What are your plans for me?" How can I go and do your will today? How can I bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name? How can I store up treasure in heaven with you now? Those questions are in my heart and on my mind. **Why is that true? Why are you asking such good questions of me?** I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. I love you with all that is within me. There is nothing I would rather do than go and do what is pleasing to you. **I see, how did you come to love me so deeply?** I love you because you first loved me. You rescued me from a life without you. You saved my soul. You forgave my sins and cleansed my unrighteousness. You gave me a new life to live. That life is with you. You made it so I could love you with all that is within me. Now, I want to live and walk in an intimate relationship as I go and do your will. **That is very good and so you shall. One day I will say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant."** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, many times I have relied on myself. I have made my own plans. I have gone my own way. I have suffered disastrous results by making dumb decisions. No more! I will rely on you by listening to your voice. Help me to be fruitful for your kingdom and glory. Amen

The Prayer Filled Life

Now Listen

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

The Prayer Filled Life

Look Here

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

The Prayer Filled Life

Come Now

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

The Prayer Filled Life

Come Now

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

The Prayer Filled Life

Come Now

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

The Prayer Filled Life

Come Now

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

The Prayer Filled Life

Come Now

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

The Prayer Filled Life

And Now

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

The Prayer Filled Life

Look Here

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

The Prayer Filled Life

Some Of You Say

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

Now Listen

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Prayer Filled Life – 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, many times I have relied on myself. I have made my own plans. I have gone my own way. I have suffered disastrous results by making dumb decisions. No more! I will rely on you by listening to your voice. Help me to be fruitful for your kingdom and glory. Amen

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

When have you foolishly made plans without seeking to know or do the Lord’s will?

When are you setting aside time to stop and listen to the Lord so you can know and do His will?

Why must you make every effort to listen to the Lord if you want to bear fruit for His kingdom?

How does your love for the Lord motivate your desire to go and do what is pleasing to Him?

When have you made incredibly stupid mistakes because you did not seek to know and do the Lord’s will?

Why is chasing after material possessions from this world a sure way to misspend your life?

What decisions do you now want to bring to the Lord so you can know and do His will?

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

Listen attentively to the Lord so you will be able to know and do His will; bearing fruit for His Kingdom and glory.

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

Have faith that the Lord will help you to know and do His will when you listen attentively to Him.

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

Share with another person or your small group how you are continually seeking to know and do the Lord’s will.

Close With Prayer: ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

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

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Now Listen

James 4

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

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 listen to the voice of the Lord so you can know and do His will.

Prayer To Carry

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

Lord, I will listen to your voice so I can 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, where will you guide me and what will you give me to do as I listen to your voice?
