

Jas23 –Arrogance & Presumption James 4:13-17

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Open your Bibles. Let's make the Word of God sing. Title of the message this morning, "Arrogance and Presumption." Not your spouse's, yours. Not your children's, yours.

I just need to tell you right up front. I'm not trying to make the Book of James hard-hitting and convicting. I don't sit in front of this book and say, "How do I make this knock people out?" You might think I do that, I really don't. This book is written with hard-hitting conviction. And so I feel like this is another hard message. So I'll listen to someone else teach it (everyone, really, with much bigger churches than ours) and some of them, God bless them all – and they're godly men, I only listen to godly men – sometimes I can tell listening to them that they're working really hard to not make this book so hard-hitting. They're working really hard not to make this book quite so convicting. For me, if I were to not make these messages hard-hitting and convicting I would not be teaching what the Word says.

When you read it and you say, "Oh that hurts." And then if you say, "But I can't make it hurt to the congregation because they don't want to hurt," then you're leading me and not God. Who says that's not a good idea? God wrote it hard-hitting, I've got to teach it hard-hitting. Do not shy away; don't find something else to do until we are out of James. Let James be confrontational and convicting. Stay in the fire, man. Stay on the wheel. Stay in the ring. Let's (all of us) continue to allow God to transform us by pummeling us through the pen of the Apostle James. Okay?

Speaking of pummeling, we have another pummeling coming today. When a boxer knows he is going to lose a fight, he just backs up against the ropes and covers up and knows he is going to get pummeled. Prepare for pummeling. James is going to confront us with our arrogance. He is going to confront us with our presumption. And he's going to wrap up Chapter 4 with one last encouragement.

Let's pray. *Heavenly Father, please, we want to be changed. We don't want to go through the motions. We don't want to be on the fringe. We don't want to be on the edge. We want it to be real; we want a real relationship with you. We want to really be transformed. We want to really be a new creation; we want to live like we are a new creation. So we give you the right, right now, to change what needs to be changed. To convict. To exhort. To encourage. To drain the poison, especially the poison of pride in our lives, to drain it out. We give you the right to take the sword of your Word and pierce us in order to drain the poison and to heal, Lord. We pray you would continue to do it through the Book of James. In your name Jesus, we pray, amen.*

A radical end to a radical chapter about our radical pride. James is radical. It's like, that guy is radical. He belongs in Nuevo. He's not messing around. He's not cutting corners or polishing stuff off. It's a radical end to a radical chapter about your (and my) radical pride.

Here's what we've studied so far in James Chapter 4, verses 1 and 2. James says our pride is really the root source of the quarrels and conflicts we have in our life. Our pride is the root source of that. Also in verse 2 and going into verse 3, our pride is the root source of us not receiving what we ask for from God. Pride is at the root of that, because we ask amiss to spend it on ourselves because of our pride. In verses 4 to 6, pride is the root source behind our friendship with the world, especially those Christians who think they can love God and love the world both. That is pride. In verses 11 and 12. Pride. The last message was the root source of the slander and the sitting in judgment that we avail ourselves to over others. For us to sit in judgment and slander another person comes from a radical level of pride in us. Pride is the root.

Really, pride is the root of all sin and James has been beating us up like a prize fighter who's got us on the ropes. It's good. We need it. But here's what's also good. James gives us the answer, he gives us the cure. Just mark it in your Bible; we're going to come back to it. It is verses 7-10. It's the cure. Chapter 4 has been so much about our pride and how much our pride needs to just be crucified out of our life. Verses 7 to 10 are God's cure. We dealt with that in a message called, "What To Do With Pride." I hope you heard that, if not I hope that you would get it from the wordbymail table or go to wordbymail.com and do a search for that message. I'm going back to that at the end of the message; I'll remind you of the cure at the end of the message.

Before we get started, let's get the context clear. Context is important. People pick and choose things out of these verses. It's important to set them in context. The context is not how do you *know* the will of God for your life? That's not the context of this teaching. The context of this teaching is how to *not know* the will of God for your life. This isn't about how do I know the will of God? This is about how do I not know, what am I doing wrong? James is going to confront us. It's the capstone. It's the summary of all the sin that our pride draws out in our life that destroys our life.

And maybe, just maybe the craziest sin of all is us thinking that we can actually plan and direct our own lives. That may be the most prideful, certainly the most arrogant and presumptuous thing that our pride drives us to, for us to think that we're in charge. That we can plan our lives and God will somehow come alongside and support us in our plan. It's a wakeup call. This is a wakeup call to tell us that if we are doing that then we are

acting as if God does not even exist. Can you imagine a Christian who's living life as if God doesn't even exist? You can't imagine it, right? Just ask your neighbor, because they know someone. A Christian who lives their life like God doesn't exist.

So, with that, let's start. James 4:13 says:

James 4:13 (ESV)

13 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

Come now...The ESV softens it a little bit. It is like, "Hey, Pal! Hey, Chief!" It's a wake up; it's like "Listen!" "Wake up! Listen!" It's an attention getter.

Again, context drives interpretation. Context here is how we pridefully think that we can actually control our own lives. James is going to address the arrogance and presumption of those self made plans. And so he begins in verse 13 by trying to shake up, grab a hold of the people who are so arrogantly confident of making their own plans.

Can I just tell you, it is a sure disclosure of a serious pride problem for someone who claims to be a Christian to attempt to make their own plans about their own life without the slightest acknowledgement or submission to God? It is a sure disclosure of a serious pride problem for someone who claims to be a Christian to attempt to make all their own plans about their own life without the slightest acknowledgment or without the slightest submission to his purpose and his plan. If you're a Christian and you're making plans for your life without submitting to and acknowledging God, that's a problem. That's a real problem.

Now, I will tell you this. If God doesn't exist in your life, it's your only choice. If God is not God in your life, you have no other choice but to make your own plans. You have no other choice but to set your own course. What else are you going to do? You make your own plans; you set your own course. That's what unbelievers do. Why? That's all they can do. That's all they have. That and the satanic influence of fortune tellers, or tarot cards or something. Even then, don't mess with that stuff. Okay? The powers of darkness use those little occult things.

When I was a kid the most dangerous thing out there was a Ouija board— oh man, let's get high and play with the Ouija board. How am I even sane today? By the grace of God. By the grace of God I was protected. (The most dangerous thing out there today is a cell phone for your kids. If your kids have a smart phone it is the most dangerous thing in the

world to your child's life. Period.) But don't mess with that. The powers of darkness are real and they will drag you into the occult and destroy you.

Even an unbeliever, they can't really self set their own life. Because God is sovereign over all, even unbelievers. But they think they can, that's all they can think because that's all they have. But how terrible is it when a Christian arrogantly plans their life like a non-Christian? When a Christian makes their decisions with just as little involvement from God as a non-Christian does? Do you realize that one of the saddest states of the Christian church is that people can't tell whether we are Christian or not? It's because we make the same choices, do the same things, set our lives the same way. That's a problem. We call that "practical atheism." Listen carefully. We call that practical atheism.

Here is practical atheism right here. "Practical atheism" is *when we say that we follow God but we totally ignore him in all of our plans and all of our decisions.* "Oh yeah, I'm a Christ follower, but I do what I want." Or, "Oh yeah, I follow Jesus Christ, but I call my own shots." "Yeah, I'm a Christ follower but, I do what I want. Don't I have the right to do that? Don't I deserve to call the shots in my life? Don't I deserve to plan my own life? Isn't that my right?"

Yeah it is. As long as Jesus is not your Lord. So get real, man. Either make him your Lord or admit that he's not. Either way, he is okay. Hot or cold, either with him or against him. Lukewarm – he'll vomit you out of his mouth. We have to decide. If he's Lord he has a say in our lives. If he's not Lord we can do whatever we want. He loves you enough to let you choose.

Here's an odd bit of information. Do you know what the number one most requested song is at funerals still to this day (even increasing in the last couple of decades?) Two-thirds of all funerals in Britain last year requested this song. Do you want to know the song? Here's the song: Frank Sinatra's "I Did It My Way." Two-thirds of all funerals in Britain and the number one requested song in America. I did it my way. I did it my way and I'm proud.

There's a mortuary, I just found this online, I searched "I did it my way funerals." Here's the number one search hit: A mortuary who knows that people search that song so much for funerals that their web address is ididitmyway-funerals.com. Search it. Because they know people are searching for that song. "Yeah, that's what I want. That's how I want to go out. I did it my way." I also found out Simon Cowell of American Idol fame has already requested "I did it my way" at his funeral. Here's a little verse of this iconic self-direction song.

I planned each charted course
Each careful step along the byway
But more, much more than this
I did it my way.

And the Christians are sitting in the funeral and they're getting teary eyed and they're thinking, "That's so sentimental. Isn't that so great? He did it his way. Oh, that's how I want to go out. I want to do it my way."

And then we have this shock of realism – we remember we're a Christian. And so then because we're a Christian we say Lord, "Please let me do it my way."

That's how we tag Jesus Christ onto our self directed life. "Lord, please give me what I want. I'm going to set my own direction. I'm going to make my own plans. I'm going to choose my own course. And then I'm going to ask my genie (they call him God, but he's my genie) to help me do it my way."

You see the problem with that, right? In our arrogance we set our own plans, in our presumption we assume God is going to support us. Re-read James 4:13 and verse 14 with it.

James 4:13 - (ESV)

13 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"—

14 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.

It vanishes. Up in smoke (and I'm not talking about the kind you need a medicinal card for.) Listen, a puff of smoke, that's it. A vapor, a mist. That's your whole life. What's the point? The point is you don't even know what tomorrow holds. But in our arrogance we make our plans. "This is what I want. This is what I'm going to do. This is what I'm gonna make happen in my life."

And in our presumption we think that Jesus is still our Lord. "This is what I'm gonna do, and since Jesus is my Lord, I'm gonna ask him to help me do what I want to do."

"It doesn't sound so great when you say it that way, Dave. Can't you just say that if we claim it that he has to give it to us? We like that!"

The only way we can believe that we can do whatever we want and presume that God's going to help us, is if we are God and he is our servant. That's the only way. If he is God,

he gets to call the shots. If he is Lord, he makes the decisions. And we say, “Yes, Lord.” Or we say, “No – you’re not my Lord.” We can’t live in total disregard of God’s sovereignty and his purpose. To disregard his sovereignty with our life being a vapor is arrogant and presumptuous of us. Only God is omniscient. Only God knows everything. Only God is omnipotent. Only God has the power to make whatever he wants to happen, happen. And only God is sovereign, which means he is actually in control. You and I think we are in control...

Have you ever watched an ant hill with those ants? We were watching one the other day, Hank and I, and the ants are bringing up these little twigs and stuff. And they’re working, they’ve been working forever. And I remember when I was a kid I used to pour gasoline down the anthills and light them. I was demonstrating my sovereignty over those ants. It’s not that much different than what God can do to us.

Only he is omniscient. Only he is omnipotent. Only he is sovereign. And so if we’re saying we make our plans and presume God will help, we’re taking his place. We’re switching places with him. Again James 4:14.

James 4:14 - NLT

14 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.

We have to see our life in its brevity. Right? This is a saying, and to some extent it’s true, “Everyday above ground is a good day.” (I said that once to a guy in the hospital, and he didn’t get it.) Listen, can I just tell you something? For a Christian, the first day you’re in the ground is your best day! But we have to remember that life is brief. We have to praise God when we wake up breathing. We praise him for the sunrise, we praise him. I went out this morning and looked at the sunrise. I thanked God. And you know what I said to him? I said, “Lord there’s been a lot of Sunday mornings I’ve watched the sun rise, and have barely made it through the day. Thank you for another day, another Sunday to watch the sunrise.” (By the way, Sunday is the only day I watch the sunrise.) Your life is so brief. When you watch the sunrise tomorrow, thank God for it. But remember he is in control of whether you see the sunrise or not.

Let’s turn to Luke Chapter 12. In This chapter Jesus teaches this great lesson by parable. It’s one of his easiest to understand. It’s a parable about a man who plans (listen carefully) for his own prosperity. *A man who plans for his own prosperity.* He plans for his own ease of retirement, ease of life, and enjoyment of life. “I have a plan. I have a plan to accomplish *this* so that I can be *that*.” Here’s what Jesus says.

Luke 12:16–21 (NLT)

16 Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops.

17 He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’

18 Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods.

19 And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!” ’

20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’

21 “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

Can I just tell you something? “They” do studies. When you ask most Christians “What are your plans?” Very, very seldom is there any plan in a Christian’s life for eternity. All my plans involve this wisp of a vapor. Let me illustrate for you. Blink. Just go ahead and blink. That’s your whole life. There you go. Yet all of our plans are wrapped up in a blink. In a wisp, in a vapor. God says, if you only knew. *If you only knew*. Psalm 139 says before you were born the days were written, every one of them, of your life. Every one. God knows. God knows your last breath. It would be wise to consult him on what he would have you do between now and then. Since he knows, why not set up an appointment with him? Stop by and see him.

Listen. God’s not against planning. But planning and finding out God’s will for your life is not the subject of these verses. The context of these verses is that God has a problem with our arrogance; leaving him out of our planning, not submitting to his plan and his purpose when we are planning our lives. And the presumption of saying “God, this is what I want, I expect you to help me get it. If you’re God, you’ll do what I want.”

No, that’s if *you’re* God he’ll do what you want. If he’s God, *you do what he wants*. This is not rocket science. When your two year old demanded that you do what they want, did you? “Oh yes, okay, whatever you want, I’m your servant, I’m your servant.” No! It’s more like “I brought you into this world, I can take you out!” I say that kiddingly. Isn’t that what God says when we say “This is what I’m going to do in my life and I expect you to help me.” God can say that so easily. It’s very presumptuous of us to presume that God would follow us in our plans.

That’s the only point James is making. Only God knows what our best plan is. What if God’s best plan for you is not what you think? What if he has a better plan than you have? What if his plan is right where you’re at? What if right where you’re at today is

God's plan for you? What if this is it, man? Praise the Lord! Because only God knows what our future looks like. And so, again if we are making our own plans we're living in practice like we're our own God.

Instead, there's another way to handle it. *Instead*. Instead James says, "Don't be that. Don't be that arrogant presumptuous Christian who demands things from God." Look at what verse 15 says.

James 4:15 (ESV)

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

DEO VOLENTE. Latin. Lord Willing. Really big with the Puritans, really, really big. Lord willing. If the Lord wills I'll do this. If the Lord wills. I sense that the Lord is leading me here, if he wills, I'll do it, if he doesn't I won't. As Christians this should always be on the tip of our tongue. Lord willing. Lord willing. If you know old Christians they say it all the time, "Yeah, I'll be over at your house for dinner, Lord willing." "What do you mean Lord willing? You have to check with him before you come eat dinner?" "Yeah." "What if he's not willing?" "I won't be there."

Lord willing. Here's what they mean. They're following the example of Christ. In the garden, you know what he said in the garden. "**NOT My Will, But THY Will be done.**" We can say that every day, "Lord not my will but thy will be done. I am your servant."

Can you imagine if Christians said that? If Christians said, "Lord Jesus, I am your servant. You decide, I'll follow you." Imagine what the church would be like. Imagine what your life would be like. If you traded places with him, let him be Lord and you be his servant. It's a radical concept and it comes straight out of the Bible.

Listen, when Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, here's what he taught them to say.

***Our Father in heaven - Holy & Revered is your name -
May your KINGDOM come in my life
May your WILL be done in my life
as YOU would have it done in heaven . . .***

Do you know what that prayer is saying? It's saying "Lord, you're in charge. The way you would like to see it done in heaven, bring it. That's what I want. I trust you enough that I want your will done in my life, not my own."

This is radical, man. This is a radical concept for Christians. “What do you mean? What do you mean God decides and I say yes? They never told me that. They told me I’d get what I want.”

Yeah, well they’re wrong. That’s called heresy. Here’s a great thing about us out here. We can be real. And we don’t have a million dollar mortgage payment that we need your money to pay, and we don’t have a dozen people on staff that we need your money to pay. So I can tell you right now, God is God – you are his servant. Amen! And I don’t have to sugar coat that.

If we’re Christians, God must be our sovereign Lord. Not our personal genie. That’s all I’m saying. And we can’t pray between the lines “Oh God please allow this to happen and allow that to happen. Please make this happen and make that happen.” But really, because God knows your heart, those are all your own plans. You take your own plans and you turn them into prayers and you say, “Please make this happen in my life, please allow this, please enable this” but they’re all your own plans. Whatever happened to “God what’s your will for my life? What’s your will? Lead me; guide me for your name’s sake, Lord. Do a great work in me, transform me God, and bring your will to pass in my life.”

That’s a hard core way to live right there. That is a hard core way for a Christ follower to live. To say, “God really, honestly, whatever you want, I’m in. Because I know it’s best. I actually believe you enough to believe that what you say is best is actually best. I believe you actually know best. So I am going to actually submit to your will.”

I will tell you guys right now, that is one of the most radical things for a Christian to get a hold of right here. I would optimistically say fifteen percent of the church lives like that. I’m guessing. Could be as high as sixteen percent. We don’t live like that. We say, “God this is what I want, please help me get it.”

James is saying that’s pretty arrogant of you, since he’s God and all.

Does this mean we can’t know God’s will? NO! Can I let you in on something? God wrote you a letter. *God wrote you a letter*. It took him fifteen hundred years to write it, and it took him forty different authors on three continents. There are sixty-six major chapters (books) of this letter. This letter is so that you can know his will for your life. I hope you’re holding a copy of it in your hand. *God’s Word will tell you his will for your life*. God’s word will tell you his will for your life; if you’ll absorb it and you’ll just believe it, he will tell you his will.

Let me give you an example; write it down in the margin there by James 4 around verse 13. Here it is. Look at Colossians 3:17.

Colossians 3:17 (NLT)

17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

That is God's will for you. Whatever you do. Whatever you say. Do it in the name, as a representative, of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks through him to God the father. Whatever you do.

Do you have to quit your job and disrupt your family and get all radical and go into full time ministry? I don't know, maybe. I don't know. But if not, it doesn't matter, because guess what? Tomorrow morning, most of us, are going to get up and do something tomorrow. We're going to do something. Whatever it is you do tomorrow, God's will is for you to do it as a representative of Jesus Christ. To do it in his name for his glory. With thankfulness through him to God the father. That's the will of God! Whether you are a mother raising children, whether you are leading a church, whether you are a salesman in a corporation – what you do it is God's will for you to do it as a representative of Jesus Christ. But you're like, "That's not what I want. I want God to tell me my future."

No you don't... and again don't mess with those people. It's dark. It's evil. Do you know why God doesn't want you to know the future? Because he wants you to know *HIM*. "God, I don't need to know what the future holds because I know who holds the future! I can't handle the truth of the future. I can't handle that information, Lord. But I know you. I don't care what the future holds because I know who holds the future, and you hold me, and I trust you. And I'm your servant. And what you say in the future, I will do. And where you go I will follow. And I don't need to know where that's at. In fact if I did know where that's at that would make me God, because I would have omniscience. I need to know Jesus. And I need to know that he knows the future and that his plan and his purpose for me is good. It's good. So I can wake up and say, 'Jesus, what's up today? What are we doing today? Where you go I'll follow.'"

Psalm 31:3, ***lead me and guide me for your name's sake***. Is there a way to know, to get a feel for God's specific will for your life? Yes, there is. We have a daily devotion journal called "How to Know God's Will." We can help you. There are studies. There are Biblical studies, but that's not the point of James.

James is saying, you arrogant, presumptuous, prideful Christian. Why do you think you get to call the shots in your life? That's what James is trying to get across. I'm trying to soften it for you, make it a little more gentle.

I thought about this, "You know what Lord? I fully believe I'm doing exactly what you made me to do. But if you change it tomorrow, I'll change. If you change the direction of my life tomorrow, I will change. I will walk off this stage this minute and I will go do whatever the Lord tells me to do." Even when you really believe, this is what I'm made to do. I'm made to raise children. I'm made to care for people. I'm made to this or to do that. You still have to say, Lord I believe I'm doing what you made me to do, but you know, if you change it – shoot me a quick tweet – and I'm gone. (Tweet, it's a form of communication via the internet site called Twitter, commonly used on smartphones.)

Let's re-read James 4:15-16

James 4:15 - with v.16 (ESV)

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

16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

. . . you boast in your arrogance

One translation says *it is wrong to be so proud*. Another translation says *you are full of your grandiose selves*. The Amplified Bible says *you boast falsely in your presumption and your self conceit*.

Now you know where I got the words arrogance and presumption, it is right out of the Word. It's pride. It shows in thinking that we direct our own lives, we control our own lives, we do what we want.

Verse 16 says it's *evil*. Evil? Yes, why? Because it makes God completely insignificant in your life. If you're in control, if you're calling the shots, if you're making him your servant, than he is insignificant as far as being God goes. Don't do it, James says it's evil. Don't think you have it all together, but depend on Christ daily. "Lord, help me today, show me today, guide me today. Give me direction today. Help me to learn how to know your will, today."

If you're not doing that you may very well be a practical atheist. Meaning you say you believe, you say you follow God, but you don't. "Yeah, I'm following God; he does whatever I tell him to do. I'm a Christ follower."

No, and he's not your follower either. No matter how much you claim it. Look at verse 17.

James 4:17 (ESV)

17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Ka-Baam! Where did that verse come from? Why did he put that verse there? This is called the "sin of omission." There are sins of omission and sins of commission. If I know God is calling to do something and I rebel against God and reject his command it is an equal sin as a sin of commission. If I know God is calling me to love my wife as Christ loved the church and I rebel and reject that command, it's as big a sin as any sin I could commit. Why did James put it here? Because now you know. *Now you know!* Now you know that if you're planning your life in your arrogance and presumption, and you're calling all your own shots without submission to God, now you know. Know what? You know it is evil. You know it's prideful.

This sentence to this verse, verse 17, is probably not just about this section but the whole chapter.

Now you know where quarrels and conflicts come from (verses 1-2, your pride.)

Now you know why you don't receive what you ask for (verses 2-3 because of your pride)

Now you know why you have one foot in the world and try to have one foot with God (verse 4-6 you're a friend of the world.)

Now you know where your slander and judgmentalism comes from (verses 11-12)

Now you know that your self-direction is arrogant and presumptuous (verses 13-17)

Now you know!

That's what James is saying, now you know, ***whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.***

What do you know? Here's what we know. James 4:6 says

James 4:6 (ESV)

6 . . . "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

We know that, don't we? We know that the sin of pride is destroying our lives and James has shown us that. And we know some of the cure for that pride. And now we know, listen carefully; if you fail to do anything about it for you, it's a sin. Because you know. You have been informed.

I told you I was going to review verse 7-10. Here's God's cure for our prideful arrogance.

Verse 7, here's the cure: Submit to God. *Submit to God*. Submit your thoughts to God, submit your plans to God, submit your desires to God and resist the temptation of the devil who wants to convince you that *you* are actually God. That's what the devil wants to convince you of, that you call the shots, you set your direction, you get to choose. Why would he do that? Because that's him. That's who he is.

Verse 8, draw near to God in all that you do. Before all that you do draw near to God. "God I've got a decision to make, I really need to spend some time with you because I'm not sure if I do such and so... So I need to draw near to you so I'll know." Draw near to God; allow him to speak to you. Verse 8 also says be single minded. Don't be double minded. Be single minded, not going through the motions but truly following God.

Verse 9, get seriously remorseful about your pride, humble yourself before the Lord, and *then* God will lift you up. *Then* God will set your path straight. *Then* God will give you the grace you need, he will give you the direction you need.

I want to close with two of my family's favorite direction verses. This is how it works, this is what you do.

Psalm 37:3–5 says (ESV)

3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

4 Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

Proverbs 3:5–6 says (ESV)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Trust in the Lord. Trust in the Lord with everything you've got. Acknowledge him in all your ways; he'll set your paths straight. And then you can just get up in the morning and follow him. And then when you end up in a particular place, you can say "Oh, this is what you had for me. I get it."

Let's pray. *Heavenly father please Lord, give us the faith to trust you. Give us the faith Lord to truly surrender our lives and say, "Lord, you are Lord, I am not. You're omniscient, I'm not. You're sovereign, I'm not. And so I place myself in your hands and I trust you. I trust you. I can't see, I can't figure it out, I don't know why, but I know you. I know you". And so Lord, help us to say, "Not my will but thy will be done." If you will*

Lord, I will move ahead. Where you go, Lord, I will follow. And when you say stay, I'll stay. And whatever I do and whatever I say, I will do it and say it as a representative of you, Jesus, giving thanks through you to God the father." Please make us radical Christ followers we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.