

# Pursue God's Plan

James 4:13-17

July 10, 2022 | Jeremy Chasteen, Lead Pastor for Strategy

**James 4:13-17** | 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. 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. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

**BIG IDEA: Planning your life without God is prideful.**

## I. Life is uncertain

**James 4:13-14a** | 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.

**Luke 12:20-21** | 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

## II. Life is short

**James 4:14b** | What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

**Psalms 102:3** | For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.

## III. God is in control

### A. Boasting in God's plan pleases Him

**James 4:15** | Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

**Proverbs 16:3** | 3 Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

**Proverbs 16:9** | The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his way.

**Proverbs 19:21** | Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

- **Does the “If” of this verse humble or haunt you?**

*“If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”*

## **B. Boasting in your own plan is evil**

**James 4:16-17** | 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

**Proverbs 21:1** | Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

- **How do you pursue God’s plan?**

### **1. Do God’s will: What is the “right thing to do?”**

- **Repent**

**Matthew 7:21** | Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

- **Be sanctified**

**1 Thessalonians 4:** | 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

- **Endure suffering**

**1 Peter 3:17** | For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

### **2. Assess your situation**

### **3. Listen to counselors**

#### **4. Pray**

**Matthew 6:9-10** | 9 Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

#### **5. Pursue your desires**

**Proverbs 3:5-6** | 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.

### **Benediction**

**Matthew 6:33-34** | 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”