

Faith Works

Week #8: Faith works Humility

James 4:13-17

The Human Dilemma - Steve Jobs & William Earnest Henley

- James 4:16-17 - *16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. 17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.*

Reality Check #1 - God is **God**, and we are **not**.

- Proverbs 16:5 - *5 The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.*
- James 4:13-14 - *13 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." 14 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.*

Reality Check #2 - God is in **control**, and we are **not**.

- Proverbs 19:21 - *Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*
- Proverbs 16:1-2 - *All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord*
- James 4:15 - *15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*

Faith works **humility** that...

- ✓ ...plans **prayerfully**.
- ✓ ...writes in **pencil**.
- ✓ ...trusts God knows **best**.
- Jeremiah 29:11 - *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Points to Ponder

- 1) Re-read James 4:15... “Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”. How does that impact how we live today and view the future? Does it impact if we should plan or not, save for retirement or not? How does it serve as a blessing for your life?
- 2) Find a blank piece of paper. About half way down, quick jot down the first answer you think of for each of the following:
 - a) List 1 thing you have planned for tomorrow, 1 thing for next week, 1 for next month, 1 for next year, and 1 thing for 5 years from now
 - b) Next...in big, bold, capital letters on the top half of the page that you left blank, write: IF IT IS THE LORD’S WILL.
 - c) Answer the following: When you first made those plans, were those words in the front of your mind? How is the planning process different when those words come first?

Homework: James 5:1-6