

Faith Resolutions

Week 9: I Will Not Be Arrogant

Series:

- Week 1: I Will Endure Trials (James 1:1-12)
- Week 2: I Will Trust God During Temptation (James 1:13-18)
- Week 3: I Will Hear and Obey God's Word (James 1:19-27)
- Week 4: I Will Not Favor One Person Over Another (James 2:1-13)
- Week 5: I Will Demonstrate Faith by Belief and Works (James 2:14-26)
- Week 6: I Will Speak with Self-Control (James 3:1-12)
- Week 7: I Will Live in God's Wisdom (James 3:13-18)
- Week 8: I Will Draw Near to God (James 4:1-10)
- Week 9: I Will Not Be Arrogant (James 4:11-17)
- Week 10: I Will Not Oppress (James 5:1-6)
- Week 11: I Will Be Patient (James 5:7-12)
- Week 12: I Will Pray in Faith (James 5:13-18)
- Week 13: I Will Help Restore Those Who are Wandering (James 5:19-20)

Scripture:

James 4:11-17

Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

What is a resolution? It's a decision and determination *to do* or *not do* something.

Scripture is full of resolutions.

James wrote about resolutions that every Christian should have as a part of their life.

Three Steps to a Resolution -

- **A Decision to Change** (this is not enough by itself)
- **A Plan to Progress** (where the real work happens)
- **A Commitment to Endure** (Some quit at the first sign of failure)

Most never move past the first step because they don't prepare for the next two steps.

We'll be talking about the *13 Faith Resolutions in the book of James*.

Ninth Faith Resolution – I Will Not Be Arrogant.

Information (What You Need to Know):

One of the greatest sins of our culture is choosing to live independent of God.

There are primarily two ways we live independent of God...

- Rebellion – I view my way and God’s way as competing
- Neglect – I forget about God’s ways

Planning without God is poor planning.

Decision to Change – *I Will Not Leave God Out of My Plans*

James 4:13 (ESV) 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..."

What plans should God be able to make for you?

- **Timing** “*today or tomorrow*” (Am I hurrying without pausing?)
- **Friendships** “*...we*” (Who is allowed to influence and shape me?)
- **Transitions** “*...will go into such and such a town*” (Am I being faithful here?)
- **Beginnings/Endings** “*...spend a year there*” (Who determines seasons?)
- **Vocation** “*...and trade*” (Who gets to decide what I do with my life?)
- **Profitability** “*...make a profit*” (For what purpose am I profiting?)

Plan to Progress – *I surrender my plans to God*

James 4:14 (ESV) ...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** Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

James is giving perspective in planning out our lives...

- We don’t know what tomorrow brings
- We don’t realize the brevity of life

The proper way to plan is to declare, “If the Lord wills...”

The word *wills* (Greek) carries the idea of desire, intention, or design.

So, my planning is subject to what God desires, intends, or has designed.

A Commitment to Endure

Let's close with an Old Testament example in contrasting a person who lives contrary to God and one who is seeking to live in God's ways.

Psalm 37:1 (ESV) Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!

The wisdom writer challenges the believer to stay on God's path by...

- Trusting in the Lord
- Delighting in the Lord
- Committing to the Lord
- Waiting for the Lord

The one that sticks out to me is committing to the Lord.

Psalm 37:5 (ESV) Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

The word *commit* (Hebrew) to roll on or roll away.

I've been carrying something but roll it onto God.

- Timing (God determines the pace)
- Friendships (God is my influencer)
- Transitions (God determines my moves)
- Beginnings/Endings (God determines start and finish)
- Vocation (God decides what I pursue)
- Profitability (God establishes success)