



What Will You Do With God's Plan for Your Life?

James 4:13-17

James 4:13-17, 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.” 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. 15 What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.” 16 Otherwise you are boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil. 17 Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

I. You can ignore God's plan. James 4:13-14

A. Life is uncertain. James 4:13-14a

James 4:13-14a, 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.”

14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow?

B. Life is short. James 4:14b; PS 90:12; PS 102:3

James 4:14b, ...Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone.

Psalm 102:3, ...For my days disappear like smoke.

Psalm 90:12, Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

II. You can obey God's plan. James 4:15; Psalm 33:11; Ephesians 5:17; Psalm 37:4

James 4:15, What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.”

A. To be SAVED. 2 Peter 3:9

2 Peter 3:9, The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants **everyone** to repent.

B. To be sanctified. 1 Thessalonians 4:3

I Thessalonians 4:3, *God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.*

C. To be filled with His Spirit. EPH 5:18

Ephesians 5:18, *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

D. To be willing to SUFFER for Him. Matthew 5:10-12

Matthew 5:10-12, *God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. 11 "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. 12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.*

E. To SERVE Him. ROM 12:1

Romans 12:1, *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Psalm 37:4, Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires.*

III. You can disobey God's plan. James 4:16-17

James 4:16-17, *Otherwise you are boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil. 17 Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.*

James 4:17, *Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.*

Apply God's Word...

1. Are you living out His plans for your life or are you expecting God to bless your plans?
2. Is there something you know you SHOULD be doing, but are not?
3. What is God prompting you to do right now in response to His Word and his Spirit?
4. Will you walk out of here in obedience and blessing or disobedience and potential disaster?

Joshua 24:15, *But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."*