

James: Faith at Work

"Lord Willing"

James 4:13-17

Sunday, September 27th, 2026

~ The sermon title comes from one of three areas: a) worldly idioms, b) Christian lingo, c) The Bible.

Just Being Honest ... This isn't an easy reality to preach on. God's will and plan for our lives harshly confronts us each day. The problem is we are so use to our will being done instead of "*His will being done*."

> Grounding our Text in Some Context:

Overarching theme of James = spiritual maturity

Then comes the theme of faith & works

Under that came wisdom (James 3 & 4)

Now, we're seeing the concept of _____.

~ Note James 4:8-10 & 12 ... "**Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.**" James combats pride by asking the question that transcends generations = "*But who are you?*" & "*What is your life?*"

I. God Has _____ Control Over All Things

God's ultimate rule and authority give us peace in this life to know that His sovereign plan is working itself out whether you failed miserably or reached a new level of success.

↑ **This is what James needs his readers to know** ↑

~ Notice the two uses of "Come Now" = (Jm 4:13 & 5:1)

Here, James addresses 2 kinds of people, or 2 kinds of sinful problems:

a) Those who boast

b) The rich who think their wealth buys them power/success

~ God's sovereignty is a reality that runs throughout the entire Bible, not just in NT Scriptures...

Proverbs 16:1; Proverbs 16:9; Proverbs 19:21; Proverbs 20:24; Proverbs 21:1

"*God is sovereign means God is powerful and authoritative to the extent of being able to override all other powers and authorities.*"

- John Piper

1. Man _____ (v. 13)

> Our presumptions make us think we have total control over: Where we _____; How long we will _____; How _____ we might be.

~ In just one or two Greek sentences (James 4:13-14a), God sovereignly puts us in our place as created beings.

2. God _____ (v. 14)

> God has total control over our _____; The _____ of time spent on earth; and when we will _____ from the earth.

~ God's sovereign rule of this world is actually designed to take away your fear, not give you more fear. This is one aspect of our practical atheism that secretly plagues us.

3. The Suitable Way to View Life: _____ (v. 15)

~ The sovereign power and authority of God is one aspect of His being that should draw us back in. *Note Job 42:2 & Daniel 4:35*

4. The Disastrous Way to View Life: _____ (v. 16-17)

** James used the same Greek word in vs. 16 that is found in 1 John 2:16 "**the pride of life** ..."

> How do resist practical atheism; boasting on self, and living God out of our plans?? It's a simple concept, yet hard to do...

We must _____ our _____.