

JAMIES



A FAITH THAT WORKS

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Main Idea: Believers Should Live Active Lives of Faithful Dependence

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Main Idea: Believers Should Live Active Lives of Faithful Dependence

1. Example of Self-Confident Living (13-14)

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

The general statements of “today or tomorrow” and “such and such” reveal that James writes this about anyone who makes any plans separate from God. The consistent use of the future tense indicative verbs—“we will go” (πορευσόμεθα), “we will spend” (ποιήσομεν), “we will do business” (ἐμπορευσόμεθα), and “we will profit” (κερδήσομεν)—shows a confidence that these plans will be carried out. There is no conditional clause to mitigate the certainty these planners exhibit. They intend to travel and stay in a foreign city in a time when travel was not always safe, and they then expect to do profitable business there. They have the time and the places all set, everything is secure, and they do not think at all of how God might regard their plans. Their boasts reveal their arrogant attitude toward God and the truth of his sovereignty over their lives. (Craig L. Blomberg)

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Main Idea: Believers Should Live Active Lives of Faithful Dependence

1. Example of Self-Confident Living (13-14)

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Psalm 39:4 “Lord, make me to know my end And what is the extent of my days; Let me know how transient I am. 5 “Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight; Surely every man at his best is a mere breath.”

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Main Idea: Believers Should Live Active Lives of Faithful Dependence

1. Example of Self-Confident Living (13-14)

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Main Idea: Believers Should Live Active Lives of Faithful Dependence

- 1. Example of Self-Confident Living (13-14)**
- 2. Model of God-Dependent Living (15)**

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Faith comes into direct conflict with pride and the human tendency to rely on one's own self. Arrogance, boasting, and approaching life as though our lives were under our control rather than in God's hands is likely to grow with success and accomplishments. Faith maintains the awareness that we are each dependent on God, and faith frees us to relax in the assurance of His loving guidance for our lives. (Lawrence O. Richards)

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Main Idea: Believers Should Live Active Lives of Faithful Dependence

- 1. Example of Self-Confident Living (13-14)**
- 2. Model of God-Dependent Living (15)**

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Proverbs 19:21 Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the Lord will stand.

Lamentations 3:37 Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded it?

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Main Idea: Believers Should Live Active Lives of Faithful Dependence

- 1. Example of Self-Confident Living (13-14)**
- 2. Model of God-Dependent Living (15)**

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Main Idea: Believers Should Live Active Lives of Faithful Dependence

- 1. Example of Self-Confident Living (13-14)**
- 2. Model of God-Dependent Living (15)**
- 3. Warning Against Arrogant Living (16-17)**

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Main Idea: Believers Should Live Active Lives of Faithful Dependence

- 1. Example of Self-Confident Living (13-14)**
- 2. Model of God-Dependent Living (15)**
- 3. Warning Against Arrogant Living (16-17)**

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

“It is likely that chapter 4’s concluding sentence... is related not only to the matter of boasting but also to all the advice given thus far in the epistle... James’ readers could not plead ignorance. The letter abounds with exhortations to do good. To fail to comply is clearly sin. To attain spiritual maturity a believer must do the good he now knows. He must stand confidently on God’s Word even in trials and temptations. He must compassionately serve his brethren without prejudicial favoritism but with practical faith. He must speak carefully with a controlled tongue and wise, cultivated thought. He must submit in contrition to his all-powerful Father, Law-giver, and Judge with a humble spirit, just action, and a trusting heart. He must be what God wants him to be, do what God wants him to do, speak as God wants him to speak, and sense what God wants him to sense.” (J. Ronald Blue)

Decidedly Dependent (James 4:13-17)

Main Idea: Believers Should Live Active Lives of Faithful Dependence

- 1. Example of Self-Confident Living (13-14)**
- 2. Model of God-Dependent Living (15)**
- 3. Warning Against Arrogant Living (16-17)**

Living What We Learn

Living What We Learn

1. Make Plans in View of God's Sovereignty

Living What We Learn

- 1. Make Plans in View of God's Sovereignty**
- 2. Humbly Accept God's Direction of Your Plans**

Living What We Learn

- 1. Make Plans in View of God's Sovereignty**
- 2. Humbly Accept God's Direction of Your Plans**
- 3. Know What is Right, and Do It**

JAMIES



A FAITH THAT WORKS