

February 25, 2018  
MOVE - Part 5  
**“Whose Will?”**

**James 4:13-14** (NIV): “<sup>13</sup>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.’ <sup>14</sup>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.”

**James 4:16** (NIV): “As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.”

**We can make all kinds of plans, and they can be good plans, but we aren’t guaranteed tomorrow.**

**Luke 12:16-21** (NLT): “<sup>16</sup>Then [Jesus] told [the crowd] a story: ‘A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. <sup>17</sup>He said to himself, “What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.” <sup>18</sup>Then he said, “I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. <sup>19</sup>And I’ll sit back and say to myself, ‘My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!’” <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, “You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?” <sup>21</sup>Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

**It’s a problem when God, who created us and all there is, and knows how our lives can work best, is left out of the planning.**

**James says we don’t have the control we think we do.**

**James sees people, even Christians, giving into a worldly worldview that somehow they’re in control and their plans are going to happen, overlooking the reality of living in a sin-filled world and God’s own sovereignty.**

**James 4:15** (NIV): “Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’”

**Everything in our lives is secondary to God and His will.**

**As much as we may *think* we can control things, life keeps showing us we don’t, proving any pride and arrogance are misplaced.**

**Proverbs 27:1** (Message): “Don’t brashly announce what you’re going to do tomorrow; you don’t know the first thing about tomorrow.”

**1 Corinthians 4:19** (NIV): “But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing....”

**1 Corinthians 16:7** (NIV): “...I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.”

**Christians trust God - we depend on Him each day, knowing He has a plan for our lives, and so we seek His plan out, versus coming up with our own plan and asking God to bless it.**

**If Jesus is Lord of our lives, we should always seek his will and be prepared to surrender our plans, especially when life throws us a curve.**

**Matthew 26:39 (NIV): "...[Jesus] fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'"**

**We're called to seek God's Will, and even as we pray for things we believe we need, we temper that, acknowledging our first desire is God's Will and not ours.**

**A danger is that, over time, we may start feeling pretty good about how we're progressing in avoiding obvious sins.**

**Jesus said the whole law can actually be summed up not in "thou shalt nots" but in loving God and loving our neighbor.**

**James 4:17 (NIV): "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."**

**It's not only sin when we *break* God's laws - sins of *commission* - but it's also sin when we fail to do His will - sins of *omission*.**

**Matthew 25:34-40 (NIV): ""<sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup>I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" <sup>40</sup>The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'""**

**Matthew 25:45-46 (NIV): ""<sup>45</sup>[The King] will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." <sup>46</sup>Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'"**

**James 2:26 (NIV): "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."**

James 4:17 reveals the depths of sin that we all battle, and how easy it is to deceive ourselves that we're doing well.

What could lead to a sense of despair is also the opportunity to drive us back to God, to confess our inability to do His Will and our absolute need for Him to supernaturally transform our hearts and actions.

#### Week 5 Memory Verse

James 4:17 (NIV): "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

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