

PART 9 “HANDOUT” PLAN AHEAD JAMES 4:13-17

James began chapter 4, Talking About the War with God, and Now he Ends Chapter 4 Talking About the Will of God...That's Because the Two Themes are Related! **Psalm 33:11** TEXT James 4:13-17

- POINT: God's Will is the Expression of His Love, So We Don't Have to Be Afraid!
- KEY: When You Allow God to Direct Your Path...There's a Simplicity and Unity to Your Life!

VS 14 These Business men were making plans for a whole year when they could not even see what lie ahead! In Vs 13 they say with Confidence, “We Will Go. Stay a Year. Buy & Sell and Make a Profit.

- Only When We are In God's Will, Can We Be Confident of Tomorrow, That God Will Lead Us, Protect Us and Use Us for His Perfect Purpose.

Verse 14 speaks to the The Brevity of Life...It's Just a Vapor that Quickly Vanishes Away: **Job 7:6**

- WISDOM IS CHOOSING **TO INVEST**, NOT JUST SPEND OUR LIVES [ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE]
- God reveals His Will in His Word, and yet So Many People Ignore the Bible. **Psalm 1:3 Joshua 1:8**

Man's Boasting Covers Up Man's Weakness. Thomas a' Kempis wrote, Man Proposes, But God Disposes,

- Proverbs 16:33. The Lot is Cast into the Lap, But the Whole Disposing is of the Lord
- Man Cannot Control Future Events! He has Neither the Wisdom to See the Future Nor the Power to Control the Future. For Him to Boast is Sin it is Making Himself God.

The Attitude of Knowing God's Will, But Choosing to Disobey It Expresses Tremendous Pride! God, I Know what You Want Me to Do...But “I” Prefer NOT to Do It. I Think I know What is Best.

People Who Know the Will of God and Deliberately Disobey it act as the will of God is something They Can “Accept or Reject”. When in Reality, the Will of God is Not an Option...IT IS AN OBLIGATION!

- Key: To Treat the Will of God Lightly is to Invite the Chastening of God in Our Lives!

Some have the Mistaken Idea that the Will of God is a Formula for Misery. However, *Just the Opposite is True!* **It is Disobeying the Lord's Will that Leads to Misery! Hebrews 12:5-11**

VS 15: *Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.”* **“If it is the Lord Will”** is NOT just a Statement on a Believer's Lips: ***It Is the Constant Attitude of Their Heart.***

Paul referred to the Will of God as he Shared his Plans with his friends. Paul did Not Consider the Will of God a Chain that Shackled him; Rather, It was A Key that Opened Doors and Set Him Free! **Rom.1 & 15**

- God's Will, For Our Lives is Like the Laws He Built Within the Universe, With This Exception: Those Laws are General, But the Will He's Planned for Our Lives is Specifically Designed for Each of Us. ***No 2 Lives are Planned With the Same Pattern!*** **Some things that are true of all Christians.** It is God's Will that We Yield Ourselves to Him 2 Cor 8:5; It is God's Will that We Avoid Sexual Immorality 1 Thess 4:3. All Christians Should Rejoice, Pray, and Thank God 1 Thess 5:16-18.

KEY: Every Commandment in the Bible Addressed to Believers is Part of the Will of God, And Must be Obeyed. God does Not Call Each of Us to the Same Work in Life, or to Exercise the Same Gifts and Ministry. **The Will of God is Taylor made for Each of Us.**

- It is Important that We Have the Right Attitude Toward the Will of God. Some think God's Will is a Impersonal Machine. God Starts it Going, and it is Up to Us to Keep it Functioning Smoothly.
- *God's Will is Not a Cold, Impersonal Machine! You do Not Determine God's Will in Some Mechanical Way, like Getting a Soft Drink Out of a Pop Machine.*
- **KEY: The Will Of God Is A Living Relationship Between God And The Believer!**
- Remember>>>The Relationship is Not Destroyed When the Believer Disobeys, for the Father Still Deals with His Child, Even If He Must Chastise him.

When You Or I Get Out of God's Will, It is NOT the End of Everything. We Suffer, to be Sure; But When God Cannot Rule...He OVERRULES!

- Just as the Body Compensates for the Malfunctioning of A Part, God Adjust things to Bring Us Back into His Will. *As illustrated in the lives of Abraham and Jonah.*

The Believers Relationship to the Will of God is a Growing Experience. If We're Willing to Obey, He is Willing to Reveal John 7:17. **Point:** "Obedience is the Organ of Spiritual Knowledge. This is True.

POINT: God Does Not Reveal His Will to the Curious Or the Careless...But to Those Who are Ready and Willing to Obey Him! Therefore, We Must Not Stop with Merely Knowing Some of God's Will. Col 1:9

- It's Wrong to want to Know God's Will about some things and Ignore His Will in others. Our Lives are Important to God, and He has a Plan for Each Detail of Our Lives.

Understanding God's Will is Where Spiritual Wisdom Comes In. A child can Know the Will of the Father, But he may not understand his will. ***John 15:15 Jesus makes Clear that as His friend, We have the Privilege of Knowing "WHY" God Does What He Does.

- Rom 12: 2 We Learn to Determine the Will of God by Being in His Word (BIBLE).

To Determine God's Will for Your Life, Start with What You know You Are to Do...And Do It!

- Then God Will Open the Way for the Next Step...And the Next Step!

Finally, We Must Do God's Will from the Heart (Not for Show). Jonah knew the will of God, and after a spanking did the will of God; But he Did Not do It from his Heart!

- In Chapter 4 We See an Angry Jonah who's Heart did not Change after this ordeal.

God Loves a Cheerful Giver **2 Cor 9:7** "The Person Giving Reluctantly, Out of Compulsion...Gets No Joy Out of Doing God's Will. **They Obey Because They Have To, Not Because They Want To!**

POINT: The Secret of a Happy Life is to Delight in Our Giving and Serving! When We Do It Becomes Delight, And Burdens Become Blessings!

Let Me Put It This Way... When We Love God, His Statutes Become Songs and We Enjoy Serving Him.

- When we Serve God Grudgingly, Because We Think We have to, We May Accomplish His Work, But We Miss the Blessing God Wanted Us to Have. However, When We Do, God's Will from the Heart, We are Enriched, No Matter how Difficult the Task Might have Been.

Let Me Add>>>We Must Never Think that a Failure In Knowing or Doing God's Will Permanently Affects Our Relationship with the Lord. We can Confess Our Sins and Receive His Forgiveness 1 John 1:9

- *We can Learn from Our Mistakes...Which Makes Us Wise. The Important Thing is the HEART that Loves God and Wants Sincerely to Do His Will and Glorify His Name.*

In Closing: Here are a Few of the Benefits of Doing the Will of God...

- 1.You'll have a Closer Relationship with God...Aids in Discerning His Will
- 2.You'll Enjoy Inner Peace in Difficult Circumstances as You Trust His Plan.
- 3.You'll be Free from the Burden of Trying to Control One's Own Life.
- 4.You'll Experience God's Guidance, Instruction and Provision Each Day.
5. You'll have an Expectation of Reward at the Return of Jesus Christ, Matthew 25.

"LIFE" POINT: The Christian, Who Knows, Loves, and Obeys the Will of God Will Enjoy God's Blessings!