



# James 4:13-17



# Living Faith Humbly Plans for the Future with God



# James 4:13-17



Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit.”

**James 4:13**



As it is, you boast in your arrogance.  
All such boasting is evil.

James 4:16



Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit.”

**James 4:13**



**Arrogant Planning says  
“We control tomorrow.”**





Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

**James 4:14**



**We think:**

**“We control tomorrow.”**

**James says:**

**“What is your life? You’re a mist.”**



“O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

**Psalm 39:4-6**



Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!

**Psalm 39:4-6**



“He who was venturing investments by land and sea, who had also entered public life and left no type of business untried, during the very realization of financial success and during the very onrush of the money that flowed into his coffers, was snatched from the world!



But how foolish it is to set out one's life, when one is not even the owner of tomorrow.”

**Seneca, Roman Philosopher**



**We think:  
“We control tomorrow.”**

**James says:  
“You do not know what tomorrow  
will bring.”**



**We think:**  
**“We control tomorrow.”**

**James says:**  
**“You’re completely dependent  
on God.”**





“We must confess that we are all heirs of God’s generosity...If a woman is intelligent, did she earn it or inherit it? If a man is an athlete, did he construct his muscle fibers?...



The achiever may think, 'But I have worked hard to hone my skills.' Perhaps so. But even then, we can ask if God did not guide our desires and nudge us toward godly aspirations."

**Dan Doriani**



Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”.....So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

**James 4:15, 17**



# Instructions from James:



# Instructions from James:

1. Make plans



# Instructions from James:

1. Make plans

2. Humbly submit plans to the Lord



Your kingdom come, Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

**Matthew 6:10**



# Living Faith Humbly Plans for the Future with God





# Practical Steps of Decision Making:



# Practical Steps of Decision Making:

1. Pray



# Practical Steps of Decision Making:

1. Pray

2. Assess all facts



# Practical Steps of Decision Making:

1. Pray
2. Assess all facts
3. Assess all feelings



# Practical Steps of Decision Making:

1. Pray
2. Assess all facts
3. Assess all feelings
4. Study the Scriptures



# Practical Steps of Decision Making:

1. Pray
2. Assess all facts
3. Assess all feelings
4. Study the Scriptures
5. Seek wise counsel



# Practical Steps of Decision Making:

1. Pray
2. Assess all facts
3. Assess all feelings
4. Study the Scriptures
5. Seek wise counsel
6. Seek God's Glory



# Practical Steps of Decision Making:

7. If you can't decide, wait.





# Practical Steps of Decision Making:

7. If you can't decide, wait.

8. Trust God's sovereignty and DO SOMETHING.



