

**James 4 “His Will to Live”
James 4:13-17
October 27, 2024**

James 4:13-17

13 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”— 14 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. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

The issue is one of self-reliance.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

10 “And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, 12 then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Psalm 9:1-2

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. 2 I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Remembering becomes an important aspect of our faith.

Proverbs 27:1

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

Luke 12:16-21

16 And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ 18 And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

There is brevity to our lives.

Psalm 103:15-16

15 As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;

16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

James 4:15

15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

God is sovereign.

Psalms 103:19

19 The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

Isaiah 46:8-10

8 "Remember this and stand firm,
recall it to mind, you transgressors,
9 remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
10 declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

When we forget that God is in control two things happen,
arrogance and anxiety.

James 4:17

17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- James says that our life is a mist. What "mist moments" have you had lately? Has anything been a reminder to you that life is short? What things come to mind as you think about the brevity of life?
- What is the next thing scheduled on your calendar? How might you consciously take eternity into account over these plans?
- Why is it great news that God is sovereign and in control of the future? How can this make you more courageous?
- When we forget God is in control, we become either arrogant or anxious. Which one describes you? How does that arrogance or anxiety get expressed?
- What is something you hope will happen or something you are concerned about and hope will not happen? What would happen if you began to pray for this circumstance, "not my will but yours be done"?
- How can your Life Group encourage you in applying this passage to your life this week?