

Studies in The Book James Faith in Action!

Lesson 20

Read James 4:13 – 17

Introduction: *It is His will that we must consider in all our affairs, whether business, religious, national, civic, or domestic. Life for the Christian is not a game of chance, nor are its issues decided with the flip of a coin. All is in God's hands, and since He has a plan and a purpose for each of our lives, we cannot afford to make decisions independent of Him. I know that most people do not favor this language today. Few people prefer God's will; fewer still refer to God's will. But the true Christian has no other choice.*

Pastor Lehman Strauss

1. James is concerned with those who seek plans in the future, without God. None of us has any right to plan tomorrow, next week, next month, or next year without consulting God. Why is it important to ask for God's will to be done and for Him to direct your steps, concerning your future plans?
 - What do the following Scriptures teach us about God directing our steps?
 - Proverbs 3:5 – 6
 - Proverbs 16:9
 - Proverbs 19:21
 - Psalm 37:23 – 24
 - Isaiah 46:8 – 10

2. How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? The answer is we can't know. According to James 4:14 what is the span of our lives compare to?
- What did the Apostle Peter say in 1 Peter 1:22 – 25?
 - What did Job say about our lives in Job 7:6 – 7?
 - What did Jesus teach us concerning "*The Parable of the Rich Fool*" in Luke 12:13 – 21?
3. According to James 4:15 what should we be saying concerning God's will?
- The will of God is doubtless the secret to victory in Christian living and power and service. How was Jesus an example of this according to Matthew 26:36 – 46?
 - According to Romans 12:1 – 2 how can we know God's perfect will for our lives?

- What did the Apostle John say about the world and God's will in 1 John 2:17?
4. According to James 4:16 if we are boasting about what we are going to do without asking God what does James say about this type of arrogance?
- What did Jesus teach us about the faithful and wise servant according to Luke 12:42 – 48?
5. James tells us in James 5:17 not only is it sinful to do and say things that are wrong, but it is equally sinful to refuse to do what is right. Can you think of a time when you did not stand up for what was right? (Explain)
- According to Ephesians 5:15 – 21 how should we be walking knowing our time here is passing away?