

Show me your faith

James 2:18

8. By Living for God Today

James 4:13-17

¹³ 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." ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

1. You're making plans for tomorrow

▲ Analyze those presumptuous predictions

James 4:13 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."

James 4:16 As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.

- ▶ *This is a rebuke of presumption and pride*
- ▶ *This isn't a rebuke of planning and preparedness*

▲ Acknowledge the proper perspective

James 4:14 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.

- ▶ *We can't see the future without God*
- ▶ *We can't secure the future without God*

▲ Adopt this practical procedure

James 4:15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

- ▶ *We live in God's schedule and permissions*
- ▶ *We live by God's strength and provisions*

2. You must place priority on today

▲ Learn what is good

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

- ▶ *Learn what is noble and necessary*
- ▶ *Learn what is now and next*

▲ Live what is good

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

- ▶ *Surrender your priorities*
- ▶ *Sift out the petty*
- ▶ *Stamp out procrastination*
- ▶ *Step up your productivity*

Action Assignments

1. Receive each day as a gift from God.
2. Recognize each day as an overflow of opportunities.
3. Regard each day as a day of decision.