

November 1, 2020 Faith Under Fire Pt 9

JESUS TAKE ~~THE WHEEL~~ MY WILL

God Dependent vs Self Reliant

Portions of this message adapted from:

- * The Holy Bible. Biblegateway.com. CSB, HCSB, NIV, LB, GN,
- * Dr. Thomas Constable. <https://planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/pdf/james.pdf>
- * Mark A. Copeland. Executable Outlines. https://executableoutlines.com/ja/ja_14.htm
- * Alec Motyer, The Book of James. 1985. InterVarsity Press
- * Kurt A. Richardson. *James*. New American Commentary. Vol. 36..
- * James M. Stulac. *James*. IVP NT Commentary.
- * Rick Warren: *How To Face Your Future*. Pt 12. Developing a Faith that Works.
- * Warren Wiersbe. The Bible Exposition Commentary Vol. 2. *James*. P. 370-374

James 4:13-17...¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit."¹⁴ You don't even know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like smoke that appears for a little while, then vanishes.¹⁵ Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."¹⁶ But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.¹⁷ So it is a sin for the person who knows to do what is good and doesn't do it. (HSCB)

JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL

God Dependent vs Self Reliant

Title from the song written by Brett James, Hillary Lindsey and Gordie Sampson. C Hal Leonard Corp.2006

“James began chapter 4 talking about WAR WITH GOD and he ends it talking about the WILL OF GOD. But the two themes are related; when a believer is out of the WILL OF GOD, he becomes a troublemaker and not a peacemaker, i.e. he is at WAR WITH GOD”. (Wiersbe, p. 370)

Since God is a God of Wisdom (He knows when and what should happen), and a God of Love (He desires the best for us), we should not see following God's will as burdensome, but as hopeful and joyful.

As Warren Wiersbe says...

“The safest place to be in the world is right where God wants you to be. (p. 370)
and... “The WILL OF GOD comes from the HEART OF GOD”. His will is the expression of His heart.

The bottom line is that we must humble ourselves and be submissive and compliant to the WILL OF GOD so that we can cultivate the HEART OF GOD in us.

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

I. **MISTAKE #1: PLANNING WITHOUT GOD**

Arrogance in Attitude

"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.'"
(vs. 13)

Life is Complex, busy and easy to be a distraction

James Dobson said “If the devil can't make you sin, he will try to make you too busy” (Stulac. P. 158)

In this passage, James, “is not trying to banish planning from our lives, but only that sort of self-sufficient, self-important planning that keeps God for Sunday but looks on Monday to Saturday as mine”. (Motyer, 1985:161)

THE SOLUTION:

COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON GOD IN YOUR FUTURE PLANS

“The spirituality James wants for us is a humble reliance on God which flows from knowing that you are in reality dependent on God for every moment”. (Motyer)

"Instead, you ought to say, `If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" (vs. 15)

"We may make our plans, but God has the last word."

Proverbs 16:1 (GN)

"We should make plans -- counting on God to direct us."

Proverbs 16:9 (LB)

II. **MISTAKE #2: PRESUMING ABOUT TOMORROW**

Arrogance in Knowledge

"Why, you don't even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil."

(vs. 14 & 16)

Life is Uncertain, Frail & Brief and to plan without God's guidance is boastful arrogance and sinful.

Psalm 39:4-6; Psalm 102:3, 11; Job 4:7, 9; Psalm 103:15

"Come," each one cries, "...Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even better!" Isaiah 56:12

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth." Proverbs 27:1

THE SOLUTION:

LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME

"So don't be anxious about tomorrow -- God will take care of your tomorrow, too. Live one day at a time." Matthew 6:34 (LB)

III. **MISTAKE #3: PUTTING OFF DOING GOOD**

Arrogance in Behavior

"Anyone then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it sins." (vs. 17)

Like the people James is writing his letter to, we often fall into the habit of KNOWING GOD'S WILL, but NOT DOING GOD'S WILL.

We must not let our arrogance lead us to thinking that God's will is something that we can accept or reject. "In reality, the WILL OF GOD is not OPTIONAL, it is an OBLIGATION". (Wiersbe. P. 372)

We must not think that we can just get away with not following God's will. What happens when we fail to follow God's will is that we bring God's chastisement upon us until we learn to submit. Save yourself, and others close to you, a lot of trouble... JUST DO GOD'S WILL

THE SOLUTION:

DO IT NOW!

"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Come back later;

I'll give it tomorrow' -- when you now have it with you."

Proverbs 3:27-28

Luke 12:16-20 -- A foolish man

"RIGHT NOW God is ready to welcome you. TODAY He is ready to save you!" 2 Corinthians 6:2 (LB)

If we make our plans subject to the approval of God, then we are wise, submissive, and righteous in God's sight!

The WILL OF GOD is tailor-made for each person. "The WILL OF GOD is a living relationship between God and the believer. It is destroyed when we disobey, but it is strengthened when we submit and obey.

The secret to a life of joy and fruitfulness is to delight in God's Will and to conform to the Image of Christ.

The choice is yours are you going to live your life in self reliance or are you going to be God-Dependent...

LET JESUS TAKE ~~the Wheel~~ YOUR WILL...

**He knows where He's going
and what He's doing!**