

What Is Your Life?

James 4

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1. As humans we like to have control, but are reminded in things like our next breath is a gift from God, not something we can control.
2. Our plans and schedules can make us feel secure, capable, and in control of the future.
3. James answers the question: What happens when our plans collide with God's will?
4. The big idea is that presumptuous planning sinfully ignores God's sovereignty.
5. James confronts people who confidently map out where they will go, how long they will stay, what they will do, and the profit they expect to make.
6. The issue is not planning itself, but the attitude behind it: "we will" reveals a heart that acts like it owns the future.
7. James reminds us that we do not know what tomorrow will bring and that our lives are a mist: present for a little while, then gone.
8. Instead of clinging tightly to our plans, we should live with an "if the Lord wills" posture that stays open to God's direction.
9. Presumptuous planning often becomes an excuse to delay obedience, saying "I'll obey later" instead of responding to God now.
10. James calls us to make plans with humility, hold them with open hands, and live with the attitude, "Not my will, but your will be done."

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Age nyn: vs. 13 “Come now,” “Pay attention,” “Listen up.”

Atmis: Vapor, smoke, steam, breath or fog.

Alozōn: A boaster, impostor, or someone full of hot air who pretends to have greater abilities than they actually do.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

“My experience is that our world thinks that Jesus is totally cool as long as he meets my interpretation of God. And in their mind, they need to be saved from the trauma that they're going through. And because it's their agenda, they believe it should be God's agenda.”

– Mark Kring, “*But God...*” sermon Good Friday, 2026

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Only A Holy God
A Thousand Hallelujahs
Been So Good

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where do you feel most tempted to act like you are in control of the future: work, finances, family, schedules, goals, or something else? Why do you think that area is hard to surrender to God?
- James says, "You do not know what tomorrow will bring." How have unexpected events in your life challenged your plans or changed your perspective on control?
- What is the difference between wise planning and presumptuous planning? How can we make plans responsibly without slipping into self-reliance or pride?
- The message described "if the Lord wills" as a posture of surrender, not just a phrase. What does that kind of surrendered mindset actually look like in everyday life?
- James says our lives are "a mist." Does that truth mostly challenge you, encourage you, humble you, motivate you, or something else? Why?
- Ric said the issue is often not "I'll never obey," but "I'll obey later." Is there an area of obedience, repentance, forgiveness, generosity, or faith that you have been delaying? What makes delay feel easier than action?