



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 53

## **Trust in His Plan**

James 4:13-16 (ESV)

*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." 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. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.*

I think I can honestly say that today in church we have all but lost the sincere faith of a sojourner on this earth. A sojourner is one that knows they don't belong in this world and as a result just live plain different than everyone else. In regards to a sojourner, they do not live like everyone else in that they trust in God's plan alone and follow suit.

The contrast of this is on the opposite spectrum altogether. I say this in regard to plans and structures for our lives that we have somehow replaced true trust in God with. What I mean is that we can become creatures of habit and so rely on our own morality, ability, and life routines than on God. However, what if God has given us principles in life, can we live by them? Absolutely, they are good and necessary. But, it is important that we do not become over structured and transfer our allegiance to the structure than on God. It is strange how all too familiar we become with our own plans and routines than we do with God.

As of recently, we have grown more and more acquainted with the meaning of this chosen passage of Scripture. This is due to the sudden radical changes that have occurred in mine and my wife's lives. All of the sudden loss hit us in areas where we had become routine and structured. We had become reliant on our circumstances and not so much on God. For this reason God has allowed some doors to close. This, however, is not a bad thing as it just shows our limited view of God's plans. I really am truly grateful for the redirection in this and how in God's

love and mercy He can take something painful and turn it into something better than we could have ever imagined. In this way, He is sure to get all the glory. Hallelujah!

This passage of Scripture uses the illustration of some sort of business person making plans to buy and sell and get gain for a year in advance. James calls this arrogance and boasting evil. It is arrogant as well as boastful for a person to make such radical claims in life when James puts it very simply by saying that such a person has no idea what will even happen tomorrow. This is arrogance and boasting because it is saying that when one places more confidence in the plan of their life than on God's plan that they are showing arrogance in that they don't know what God has planned.

I wonder if we can relate to this somehow in our Christian circles today. I would say that in many ways the answer is a startling yes. Should we be concerned about this? Again, I would have to say yes, if I am reading the Scripture and believing what it says.

But how are we doing this?

Well, I believe one important way of answering this question is to relate spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. In saying this, I will say that each day is new and has never happened. In truth, this is a good thing for a believer because it shows that they are actually not in control of their lives to any degree. Every day is a day to come to the throne of grace to receive instruction supernaturally for the day at hand. Now, in speaking earlier on God-given life principles and how they are good and necessary, I would like to add, that I am in no way advocating the removal of foundational biblical truths or biblical life principles. Actually, what I am advocating is pure and simple reliance on the Holy Spirit of God in those very things. But, what does this passage of Scripture have to do with this? I would have to say gently, everything.

In saying this, it is important to note that the premise of this passage of Scripture is about the arrogant relying on their own plans than on God. The relation to what I just shared is that we can become so overly routine and used to how we do things that it actually at some point tends to quench the Holy Spirit of God. In short, quenching the Holy Spirit is very simply rejecting that He knows better than we do. To be more exact, when we rely more on our own morality, ability, and life routines we are showing arrogance in that we are placing more trust in ourselves than on God.

On a whole other level, when we realize that our plans come to nothing (as they will) it often breaks us and causes us much-unneeded worry and stress. This

ought not to be. We must settle it in our hearts that all such boasting is, in fact, evil and so place every part of who we are and what we do into the hands of the Living God. To be led by the Spirit is life and peace (Romans 8:6). Our lives, first of all, are not our own but were bought with the blood of Jesus Christ. Secondly, we must seek to live every day not by a rule or plan but by the Spirit of the living God. Every command of God is best furnished when keeping it by the Holy Spirit. Anything else is legalism and in danger of reproach.

So, what can we make of this?

Well, each person, I am sure is struggling in a different area of their life than maybe another is. The point is, what is the Holy Spirit telling you through this message. Is He showing you anything? Or maybe it is for another time and season?

The point is, however, that we need to examine our lives under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to see if any of these things might apply to us in particular. It is interesting to note as well that James said that this is evil and sin. I wonder, do we place this evil and sin up there with maybe adultery or lying or bearing false witness? If we don't, I think maybe we should. I say this because, when I am trying to live a life free from sin before God, I will actually grieve the Holy Spirit when I do in fact fall into sin. Why should this be any different? When I find that I have grieved the Holy Spirit because of my sin, I desire to repent and turn to God in that thing I had fallen from. James is here saying that boasting in our own abilities and making plans according to them is actually evil and that anyone who knows to do good and does not to him it is sin.

Lord, these really are powerful words, but we did not write them. It was You Lord, through Your servant and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Inspire us this very hour to put away from us the need for reliance upon ourselves as though we had anything of worth to bring to You. Truly following Your leading can at times be difficult and even scary, yet at the same time, it is truly life and peace. Help us to let go today of everything we hold more dear to us than You and give us grace to know You more and more and to just let You lead. Thy will alone be done, in Jesus name. Amen.

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
Lights and Perfection, Inc



©2020 Lights and Perfection, Inc. | 5215 Hartford Lane, Wildwood, FL 34785, US

Like Tweet

Web Version Preferences Forward Unsubscribe

Powered by  
**GoDaddy Email Marketing**®