

A #Hack4Faith Discussion-based Study for Groups and/or Individual Enrichment
The Letter of James

“Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete lacking nothing.” James 1:4

Discussion Eight: *Genuine in Confidence*, James 4:13 – 5:12.

Key Phrase: “...*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.’*” James 4:14-15

1. Discussion Scenario:

- a. The future – that which is always before us. It holds the probability for times of great sorrow and great joy, times of lack and abundance, times of suppression and conquest. How can we be confident in facing a future of uncertainty? Should we make plans or should we not? What’s our posture to be in relationship with others and God?

2. Confidence in our Approach to the Future:

- a. Read James 4:13-5:12, [James 4:13-5:12 NIV - Boasting About Tomorrow - Now listen, - Bible Gateway](#).

3. Digging in:

- a. Verses 4:13-17:
 - i. Verse 14, How does this verse shape perspective on life itself?
 - ii. Verses 13, 15 & 16, How do these verses shape the way we plan for the future?
 - iii. Verse 17, What is to guide our choices?
 - iv. How do these verses impact “confidence” in our approach to the future?
- b. Verses 5:1-6:
 - i. Write two questions you’d like to discuss with the group from these verses.
 1. Questions 1 –
 2. Questions 2 –
 - ii. What are we NOT to put our confidence in?
 - iii. What is your key takeaway from 5:1-6?
- c. Verses 5:7-12:
 - i. Verses 7-11:
 1. What’s our core attitude(s) as we face the future?
 2. What are we to avoid?
 3. Who’s set the pattern for us to follow?
 4. What is it that can provide us with absolute confidence in our future?

ii. Verse 12:

1. James is quoting Jesus' instructions here, let's see what Jesus said about this to broaden our perspective. Read Matthew 5:33-37 [Matthew 5:33-37 NIV - Oaths - "Again, you have heard that - Bible Gateway](#).
 - a. What does a simple "yes" or "no" say about confidence?

4. Bringing it home:

- a. What are your key takeaways from this study/discussion? List up to 3 and be prepared to share at least one.
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- b. Being "genuine in confidence" -- what two actions can you take this week?
 - i.
 - ii.
- c. Write a short prayer to your Lord Jesus Christ regarding being genuine in confidence as you view your future.

Acknowledgement: Some of the content in this study was inspired by William Barclay (1976). *The Daily Study Bible Series, Revised Edition, The Letter of James and Peter*. The Westminster Press.