



# Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

## Facing the Future Fearlessly

August 12 & 13, 2023

### James 4:13-17 (NLT)

Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

## Facing My Future Fearlessly Only Happens When I:

1

Put God first in everything I do.

**Verses 13 & 16 (NLT)**

*Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." ...Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.*

## TEST

Is God first in...

- **Where I choose to go?**  
*"Today or tomorrow we'll be going to a certain town..."*
- 

- **What I choose to do?**  
*"We will do business there..."*
- 

**Isaiah 14:13-14 (NLT)**

For you said to yourself, "I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High."

- **How I view money?**  
*"...and make a profit."*
-

## Proverbs 16:1 & 9 (TPT)

Go ahead and make all the plans you want, but it's the Lord who will ultimately direct your steps... Within your heart you can make plans for your future, but the Lord chooses the steps you take to get there.

## 2 Presume I only have this moment, but prepare for the future.

### Verses 14-15 (NLT)

*How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that."*

## Why?

- Life is unpredictable.

*"But you don't have a clue what tomorrow may bring."*

*Verse 14a (TPT)*

- Life is short.

*"For your fleeting life is but a warm breath of air that is visible in the cold only for a moment..."*

*Verse 14:b (TPT)*

## 3 Practice doing good without procrastinating.

### Verse 17 (NLT)

*Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.*

## Proverbs 3:27-28 (NLT)

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you."

## Three choices I can make with my life:

- Spend it – Live for myself
- Waste it – Throw it away
- Invest it – Use my resources for God's Kingdom

## 2 Corinthians 6:2 (LB)

For God says, "Your cry came to me at a favorable time, when the doors of welcome were wide open. I helped you on a day when salvation was being offered." Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today he is ready to save you.

## James 4:15 (NLT)

What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that."

## James 4:14 (NLT)

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- **Where I choose to \_\_\_\_\_?**  
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- **What I choose to \_\_\_\_\_?**  
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