

Don't Walk Through Life Blind

The Test of Dependence Upon God's Will James 4:13-17 Chris Mueller 2-27-22

Introduction:

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

2 Kings 6:14 He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. **15** Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" **16** So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." **17** Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." **14** Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. **15** Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." **16** But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. **17** Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin

Don't walk through each day independently, walk through each day dependently.

#1 Don't be blinded by _____ and ignoring God's will **13-15**

1st Don't presume to make _____ without the Lord being central **13**

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

Luke 12:20...You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches; ...for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Matthew 6:33 ...seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2nd Don't be presumptuous about your _____ life today or tomorrow **14**

14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

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

A. You are _____ of the future; only God knows **14a**

14a Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow.

John MacArthur Life is far from simple. It is a complex matrix of forces, events, people, contingencies, and circumstances over which we have little or no control, making it impossible for anyone to ascertain, design, or assure any specific future. Despite that, some people foolishly imagine they are in charge of their lives.

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose

B. You don't _____ your brief life; only God does **14b**

14b You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

3rd Don't presume God is not in charge of every _____ 15

15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

1 Corinthians 16:7 For I do not wish to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.

Proverbs 19:21 Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the Lord will stand.

#2 Don't be blinded by _____ and denying God's will 16

16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

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

#3 Don't be blinded by _____ and disobeying God's will 17

17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin

Saved, Spirit-filled, Sanctified, Submissive and Suffering

Psalms 37:4 "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart"

#1 Pride

#2 Ignorance of God's will

Hebrews 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives."

8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Don't walk through each day independently; walk through each day dependently.

#4 Live with sight by _____ and relying on God's will 15

15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

The Lord is central to the plans of all who love Him.

Acts 18:21 "I will return to you again if God wills,"

1 Corinthians 16:7 I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.

Hebrews 6:3 And this we will do, if God permits.

Deuteronomy 32:39 there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life.

Hebrews 9:27 it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

Revelation 1:18 I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Questions for Growth in Christ

1. Why is it that so many Christians in the USA walk through everyday life without much thought about God's will?
2. Why is it that Christians do not see not living by God's will as a serious sin?
3. James uses examples for those who don't live by God's will. Come up some examples of how Christians today do not walk dependently on the Lord's will.
4. Why don't believers think of life as brief and fragile?
5. What kind of things do Christians boast about, thinking they accomplished something without the Spirit?
6. What steps will you take this week to live by God's will, dependently?
7. What difference will it make in your life if every moment is lived dependently upon the Spirit and by God's Word?

