

Nathan Wicker / General

James / James 4:13–17

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## // INTRO

**James 4:13–17 ESV**

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

**James 4:6–10 ESV**

6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James paints a picture here of what we must do to live a fruitful life:

- stay humble
- submit & draw near to God
- resist the devil -> *false accuser, slanderer*
- cleanse hands, purify hearts
- be wretched (*realize one's misery*), mourn, weep [from this place, we gain the revelation that our life is but a mist]
- laughter to mourning
- joy to gloom
- be humble, God will exalt (it's not always how you think you should be exalted) - God's promotion system doesn't always mirror what man's promotion system looks like.

There's been many times I receive a spiritual promotion, but in man's eyes I became crazy. In these seasons I like to read some of Paul words and remind myself that the World doesn't understand the ways of God. ([1 Corinthians 4](#))

Remember:

James is the first chronological writings that we have after Jesus ascended to Heaven.

So James is directly writing to the day and culture that was present.

He is not writing things as a "just in case" scenario.

The idea of the Holy Spirit living in a person was still a new concept, foreign to many.

## LIFE IS A MIST

**James 4:14** ESV

<sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

**James 4:14** AMP

<sup>14</sup> Yet you do not know [the least thing] about what may happen tomorrow. What is the nature of your life? You are [really] but a wisp of vapor (a puff of smoke, a mist) that is visible for a little while and then disappears [into thin air].

**James 4:14** NLT

<sup>14</sup> 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.

My Mom just sent a video of their first snow up north. I was reminded how in the cold air, you can see someone's breath for a brief moment, then it's gone.

## ETERNITY VS. LIFE

In comparison, our lives are just a blip, yet the decisions we make in that blip (life) will determine where we spend eternity.

## Putting Furniture Together

>> How many have put together furniture before?

I remember this one time when I was building a bookshelf...

I didn't pay close attention to the detail and "thought I knew what I was doing" and ended up putting the very first shelf piece on backwards. So the unfinished edge was showing.

I didn't realize this until I was finished building the shelf and had to proceed to take the shelf apart and redo things the right way.

>> How many of you would've left it?

>> How many of you would've fixed it?

>> How many of you would've hired someone?

### James 4:15 ESV

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

## IF THE LORD WILLS

Here at FOB, "**we are a gathering place where together we pursue a spirit-filled life in Christ.**"

I want to take a good portion today and talk about living a spirit-filled life. I believe James is teaching this concept here.

## MAKING PLANS

When reading this passage, I've seen people take these words and say that **you shouldn't plan anything.**

I don't believe that's what James is trying to say here.

**"James does not discourage us from planning and doing, only from planning and doing apart from reliance on God." - David Guzik**

## WHO OR WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

this is a quick overview of the Holy Spirit, but we plan to do a whole series on the Holy Spirit early next year!

- Holy Spirit is one of the three equal parts of the Godhead (trinity)

*if He is a different part of the Godhead then why do we say “we pursue a spirit-filled life in Christ?”* [Gal](#)

[4:6](#) “6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!””

- Holy Spirit is a He (masculine)

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- We see the spirit of God hovering over the waters - [Gen 1:2](#)
- Holy Spirit is everywhere - [Psalm 139:7](#)

[Psalm 139:7](#) [ESV](#)

<sup>7</sup> Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

- There are seven Spirits of God - [Isaiah 11:2-3](#), [Rev 1:4](#), [Rev 3:1](#), [Rev 4:5](#)

[Isaiah 11:2-3](#) [ESV](#)

<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

- Blaspheming the Holy Spirit will NOT be forgiven - [Matt 12:31](#), [Mk 3:29](#), [Lk 12:10](#)
- No one knows the things of God but the Spirit of God - [1 Cor 2:11](#)

[1 Corinthians 2:11](#) [ESV](#)

<sup>11</sup> For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

- There is one body and one Spirit - [Eph 4:4](#)
- The Holy Spirit confesses Jesus - [1 John 4:2](#)

## LIFE (GIVEN) BY THE SPIRIT

- Literally, the Spirit gives life - [2 Cor 3:6](#)

[2 Corinthians 3:6](#) [ESV](#)

<sup>6</sup> who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

- Spirit abides with us, fear not - [Hag 2:5](#)

**Haggai 2:5 ESV**

<sup>5</sup> according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.

- Must be born of water and the Spirit (Nicodemus Discourse)- [John 3:5](#)
- Living by the Spirit, we must also keep in step with the Spirit - [Gal 5:25](#)
- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit (right between corrupt talk, slander, malice, bitterness, wrath, anger...) - [Eph 4:29-31](#)

**Ephesians 4:29-31 ESV**

<sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

- Sealed with the Holy Spirit as a pledge - [2 Cor 1:22](#), [Eph 1:13-14](#)

## **BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT**

- Let your good Spirit lead me - [Psalm 143:10](#)
- Be Led by the Spirit - [Rom 8:14](#), [Gal 5:18](#)

**Romans 8:14 ESV**

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

- The Spirit led Ezekiel to the valley of dry bones - [Ezek 37:1](#)
- The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness - [Matt 4:1](#)
- The Spirit led Philip to the Ethiopian Eunuch - [Acts 8:29](#)
- Many times the Spirit would send or forbid - [Acts 13:4](#), [Acts 15:28](#), [Acts 16:6](#), [Acts 16:7](#), [Acts 19:21](#)
- The Spirit leads to revelation - [Rev 4:2](#), [Rev 17:3](#), [Rev 21:10](#).

## THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

- walk by the spirit - [Gal 5:16, Gal 5:25.](#)

### **Galatians 5:16** ESV

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

- sowing to the Spirit, reaps eternal life - [Gal 6:8](#)

### **Galatians 6:8** ESV

<sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

- if you are of the spirit, set your mind will follow - [Rom 8:5](#)

### **Romans 8:5** ESV

<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

- the spirit brings fruit (evidence) - [Gal 5:22-23](#)
- the spirit has gifts - [1 Cor 12:4-11](#)
- the church grew with the **fear of the Lord** and in **the comfort of the Holy Spirit** - [Acts 9:31](#)

### **Acts 9:31** ESV

<sup>31</sup> So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

- the spirit dwells in you - [Rom 8:9](#)

### **Romans 8:9** ESV

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

- the spirit helps in our weakness - [Rom 8:26](#)
- we can pray at all times in the spirit - [Eph 6:18](#)

## CLOSING

Seeing just a sliver of who and what the Holy Spirit is in our lives – **why would we ever bypass consulting Him on what we should do with our day?**

As a person that loves my calendar, task list, project planners – the one thing that I have seen change my entire workflow and ability to be productive...asking God what I should do with my day.

Every few months, I rework my calendar and task lists to fit whatever has changed in life. This used to be a simple 20-30 minute reworking of the calendar, but now I ask the Lord what needs to stay, go, be moved around...

**...it's asking the Lord for direction when in the time of transition...**

## ACTION ITEMS

1. **Invite the Holy Spirit into your day** - “Holy Spirit Come, Holy Spirit You are Welcome” – H.S. is a gentleman, He will wait to be invited.
2. **Listen for His prompting & record His response** (journal, notepad, voice memo)
3. **Do what He says** - it comes back to obedience

**2 Corinthians 10:5–6 AMP**

[Inasmuch as we] refute arguments *and* theories *and* reasonings and every proud *and* lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought *and* purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One),

Being in readiness to punish every [insubordinate for his] disobedience, when your own submission *and* obedience [as a church] are fully secured *and* complete.