

James Series Going Deeper

5- Day Devotional “Living Under the Will of God”

Week 13, Day 2: You Do Not Know Tomorrow

Primary Verse:

Reading: James 4:14; Matthew 6:25–34

Focus Verse:

“Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.”

James 4:14

Devotional:

James gives us one of the most humbling truths in Scripture: “You do not know what tomorrow will bring.”

That statement is simple, but it is deeply confronting. We often live as though tomorrow is certain. We assume we will wake up. We assume we will have the same opportunities. We assume we will have the same health. We assume the people we love will still be there. We assume the plans we made will unfold the way we imagined.

But James lovingly interrupts our assumptions and says, “You do not know.”

This is not meant to create fear in us. It is meant to create humility.

James is not trying to make believers anxious about the future. Jesus already told us not to be anxious about tomorrow. The point is not that we should panic because tomorrow is uncertain. The point is that we should trust God because tomorrow is uncertain to us but not to Him.

We do not know what tomorrow holds, but God does.

We do not control what tomorrow brings, but God reigns over it.

We cannot see around the corner, but God sees the end from the beginning.

That truth should not paralyze us. It should anchor us.

Pride says, “I know what tomorrow will bring.”

Fear says, “I cannot handle what tomorrow may bring.”

Faith says, “I do not know what tomorrow will bring, but I know the One who holds tomorrow.”

James is not calling us to live recklessly. He is calling us to live dependently. There is a difference between responsibility and control. Responsibility says, “I will be faithful with what

God has put in front of me.” Control says, “I must secure outcomes that only God can rule over.”

Many of us carry the burden of tomorrow as if it belongs to us. We rehearse conversations that have not happened. We fear problems that have not arrived. We grip possibilities that God has not given us grace for yet. We try to mentally live in a day we have not been given.

But James reminds us that tomorrow is not ours to control. Tomorrow belongs to the Lord.

That does not mean we do not plan. It means we plan humbly. It means we obey today and trust God with tomorrow. It means we do what is right in the moment God has given us instead of trying to rule over moments that have not yet come.

The believer is not called to know tomorrow. The believer is called to trust God today.

Reflection Questions:

Where are you trying to control tomorrow instead of trusting God today?

How does the uncertainty of tomorrow expose either pride or fear in your heart?

What would obedience look like today if you truly believed tomorrow belongs to the Lord?

Prayer:

Father, I confess that I often live as though I must know and control what tomorrow will bring. I carry burdens You never asked me to carry. I try to secure outcomes that belong to You alone. Teach me to be faithful today and trust You with tomorrow. Free me from pride. Free me from fear. Help me rest in Your sovereign care. Amen.

Action Step:

Write down one future concern that has been weighing on you. Pray over it, then physically place it somewhere as a symbol of surrender. Remind your heart: “This belongs to the Lord.”