

James Series Going Deeper

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

Week 13, Day 3: Your Life Is a Mist

Primary Verse:

Reading: James 4:14; Psalm 39:4–7; Psalm 90:12

Focus Verse:

“What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.”

James 4:14

Devotional:

James asks a question every believer must answer: “What is your life?”

That question cuts through the noise. It cuts through ambition, distraction, pride, comparison, busyness, and self-importance. James is forcing us to stop and think clearly about the true nature of our earthly life.

Then he answers: “You are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.”

A mist is visible for a moment, then gone. It appears briefly, but it cannot be held. It is real, but it is temporary. It is present, but it is passing.

That is our life.

James is not saying our life is meaningless. Scripture does not teach that human life is meaningless. We are made in the image of God. We are loved by God. We are created for His glory. We are redeemed by the blood of Christ. Our lives matter deeply.

But James is saying our earthly life is brief.

This truth should sober us. It should humble us. It should wake us up.

So much of our pride comes from forgetting how temporary we are. We act like we have unlimited time. We delay obedience. We postpone repentance. We assume we will fix things later. We leave words unsaid, forgiveness ungiven, callings unexplored, and sin unconfessed because we imagine there will always be more time.

But James says life is a mist.

That does not mean we should live in despair. It means we should live with holy urgency.

Because life is a mist, we should not waste it on sin.

Because life is a mist, we should not spend it chasing the world.

Because life is a mist, we should not delay repentance.

Because life is a mist, we should not build our identity on temporary success.

Because life is a mist, we should not withhold love, mercy, obedience, or surrender.

Psalm 90:12 says, “Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”

There is wisdom that only comes when we remember our days are numbered. Not in a morbid way, but in a worshipful way. Numbering our days teaches us to live for what matters. It teaches us to stop treating temporary things as ultimate things. It teaches us to stop wasting our short life trying to be God and start spending our life walking with God.

The brevity of life should not make us frantic. It should make us faithful.

Your life is a mist, but it is a mist that can be lived for the glory of God.

Reflection Questions:

How does remembering the brevity of life change what feels important today?

Where have you delayed obedience because you assumed there would always be more time?

What temporary thing have you been treating like it is ultimate?

Prayer:

Lord, teach me to number my days. Help me see my life clearly. I confess that I often live distracted by things that will not last. Wake me up to what matters. Let the brevity of life produce humility, wisdom, repentance, love, and obedience in me. May my short life be fully surrendered to Your eternal purposes. Amen.

Action Step:

Do one act of obedience today that you have been delaying. Make the call. Apologize. Forgive. Serve. Pray. Begin. Do not assume later is guaranteed.