

(I Lost Everything in the Post-Natal Depression by Erma Bombeck) New York: Fawcett Crest. Copyright - Field Enterprises, Inc. 1973. 192 pp.

In case you are keeping score, I missed being named Mother of the Year by three votes (all cast by my own children), I was not named to the Olympic Dusting Team, and I was laughed out of the Pillsbury Bake-off. (My husband ate my Tomato Surprise and said, "Why don't you flake off?" and I thought he said "bake off.")

However, at the 1972 meeting of the doctor people in Passaic, New Jersey, I was named as the woman who had the longest post-natal depression period in the history of obstetrics.

After fourteen years, I was still uptight about toilet training, upset because the stretch marks wouldn't tan, and depressed because I was still in maternity clothes.

My favorite story on motherhood came to me through the mail. It involved a mother who had it all together. She was a model of virtue, a paragon of womanhood. She had six children, whom she counseled with great wisdom and patience. She was never too busy to listen and to talk with in a cool, calm way that was to be envied. She managed her house with quiet efficiency, her personal life with equal stoicism, and she never appeared to be frazzled or overwrought. She thrived on crisis and trauma, smiled in the face of disaster, and through it all remained peaceful and ever-smiling.

One day she was asked how she did it. She was silent for a moment, then she said, "Every evening after the children are in bed, their clothes are laid out for the next morning, their lunches are readied and the lights are out, I fall to my knees beside their beds and say a prayer to God. I say, 'Thank you God for not letting me kill one of them today.'"

Motherhood . . . thy name is frustration.
pp. 88-89

(Forever, Erma: Best-Loved Writing From America's Favorite Humorist by Erma Bombeck) Kansas City, MO: Andrews & McMeel/Universal Press Syndicate. Copyright - Erma Bombeck Estate, 1996.

I defy any parent who has been on a trip with a child who kicked the seat for 50 miles, threw his shoes out the window, lost his pet snake in Cleveland during the five o'clock traffic and spilled his slush down your back to tell me she has never considered abandoning him at the next Shell station.

What mother has never fallen on her knees when she has gone into her son's bedroom and prayed, "Please, God. No more. You were only supposed to give me what I could handle."

pp. 18-19

(Forever, Erma: Best-Loved Writing From America's Favorite Humorist by Erma Bombeck) Kansas City, MO: Andrews & McMeel/Universal Press Syndicate. Copyright - Erma Bombeck Estate, 1996.

I Loved You Enough to . . . —January 6, 1976

"You don't love me!"

How many times have your kids laid that one on you? And how many times have you, as a parent, resisted the urge to tell them how much?

Someday, when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a mother, I'll tell them:

I loved you enough to bug you about where you were going, with whom and what time you would get home.

I loved you enough to insist you buy a bike with your own money even though we could afford it.

I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover your friend was a creep.

I loved you enough to make you return a Milky Way with a bite out of it to the drugstore and confess, "I stole this."

I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your bedroom, a job that would have taken me 15 minutes.

I loved you enough to say, "Yes, you can go to Disney World on Mother's Day."

I loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment, disgust and tears in my eyes.

I loved you enough not to make excuses for your lack of respect or your bad manners.

I loved you enough to admit that I was wrong and ask for your forgiveness.

I loved you enough to ignore what every other mother did or said.

I loved you enough to let you stumble, fall, hurt and fail.

I loved you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your own actions at age 6, 10 or 16.

I loved you enough to figure you would lie about the party being chaperoned but forgave you for it—after discovering I was right.

I loved you enough to accept you for what you are, not what I wanted you to be.

But, most of all, I loved you enough to say no when you hated me for it. That was the hardest part of all.

pp. 42-43

(Family: The Ties That Bind...And Gag! by Erma Bombeck)

I could hardly wait to leave the "crud detail" as I called it. I wanted to go to a place where you were important and people listened to what you had to say. Mothering hadn't done that ...and yet ...wouldn't it be ironic if my turf yielded the most important commodity being grown today? A family? A crop of children, seeded by two people, nourished by love, watered by tears, and in eighteen or twenty years harvested into worthwhile human beings to go through the process again. What if nothing else I would do would equal it in importance? Wouldn't you have thought someone would have told me?

p. 193

A Practical Study of JAMES: The Battle of Our Behavior

SESSION #9: James 4:13-17

"Develop Dependence on the Designer"

Key Verse:

4:15 Instead of your saying if the Lord wills, we shall both live and do this or that.

Memory Verse: James 4:14

TEXT:

v.13 Come now you who are saying, "Today or tomorrow we shall go into that city, and we shall spend a year there and we shall carry on business and make a profit."

v.14 Whereas you are not knowing what will happen tomorrow and what character is your life. For you are a mist which is appearing for a little time and then disappearing.

v.15 Instead you ought to be saying: "If the Lord wills, we shall both live and do this or that."

v.16 But now you are glorying in your arrogance. All such glorying is evil.

v.17 Therefore, to the one knowing how to do good, and is not doing it, to him it is sin.

Introduction:

1. Test — Designed by God to measure & produce Growth
2. Temptation — Designed by Satan to distract & destroy
3. Word — Daily intake to stay on Track!
4. Love — Pure, unconditional, without partiality produced by the Spirit!
5. Fruit — The evidence that I am His child!
6. Tongue — can only be controlled by the spirit!
7. Wisdom — Tap into the wisdom from Above!
~~Judge~~ "Pure, Peaceable, Gentle, easy to be irritated Full of mercy & good Fruits."
8. War — ON three fronts — ① world Around us ② Self within us ③ Satan who is Against us

Paul says to the Romans in:

Romans 12:1-3

And so dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God and let them be a living sacrifice, holy, the kind He can accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the fashions and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will see from your own experience how his ways will satisfy you entirely.

God has a plan for each of our lives and its fulfillment in life is to be doing His perfect will and to rest in the fact that He is in sovereign control.

IF All OF This is true & it is !! why is it so rough?!

Surgeon Reminded me of this

The Other Morning

248

MORNING

May 3

Just hours
before the
Cross!

"In the world ye shall have tribulation."—John xvi. 33.

#1

ART thou asking the reason of this, believer?

Look upward to thy heavenly Father, and behold Him pure and holy. Dost thou know that thou art one day to be like Him? Wilt thou easily be conformed to his image? Wilt thou not require much refining in the furnace of affliction to purify thee? Will it be an easy thing to get rid of thy corruptions, and make thee perfect even as thy Father which is in heaven is perfect? Next, Christian,

#2

turn thine eye downward. Dost thou know what foes thou hast beneath thy feet? Thou wast once a servant of Satan, and no king will willingly lose his subjects. Dost thou think that Satan will let thee alone? No, he will be always at thee, for he "goeth about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." Expect trouble, therefore, Christian, when thou lookest beneath thee. Then look around thee.

#3

Where art thou? Thou art in an enemy's country, a stranger and a sojourner. The world is not thy friend. If it be, then thou art not God's friend, for he who is the friend of the world is the enemy of God. Be assured that thou shalt find foemen everywhere. When thou sleepest, think that thou art resting on the battlefield; when thou walkest, suspect an ambush in every hedge. As mosquitoes are said to bite strangers more than natives, so will the trials of earth be sharpest to you. Lastly, look within thee, into thine own heart and observe what is there. Sin and self are still within. Ah! if thou hadst no devil to tempt thee, no enemies to fight thee, and no world to ensnare thee, thou wouldst still find in thyself evil enough to be a sore trouble to thee, for "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." Expect trouble then, but despond not on account of it, for God is with thee to help and to strengthen thee. He hath said, "I will be with thee in trouble; I will deliver thee and honour thee."

#4

v.13 Come now you who are saying, "Today or tomorrow we shall go into that city, and we shall spend a year there and we shall carry on business and make a profit."

Matthew 16:26

For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Luke 12:19-20

And I ^{will} say to my soul, soul thou hast much goods laid up for many years. Take thine ease. Eat, drink and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee and whose shall those things be which thou hast provided.

Matthew 6:34

So don't be anxious about tomorrow, God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.

SALVATION,

SANCTIFICATION,

GLORIFICATION

is all God's responsibility

* Henry Jacobsen points out that:

This is sinning through side-stepping of God. It is practical atheism to be planning without taking God into consideration. If we continue to shut God out of our lives, we commit sin.

Ryrie says:

The flesh then is that old capacity which all men have to live lives which exclude God. In the Christian the flesh is that same capacity to leave God out of his life in actions. The sin nature is also called the old man. This phrase seems to emphasize the source of the capacity to glorify self instead of God. That is, it takes us back to Adam from whom we all received our sin natures. Conversion brings with it a new capacity with which we may now serve God in righteousness. Before salvation we were servants of sin but now we may be servants of righteousness. Before salvation we were servants of sin but now we may be servants of righteousness. The unsaved man has only one capacity. But the Christian has two. This means that the unsaved person has only one course of action, to serve sin and self. Or to leave God out of his life, while the believer has an option. He may serve God as long as he is in a human body, he may also choose to leave God out and live according to the old nature.

James is hitting hard on the fact that these who are leaving God out of their plans and carrying on business are living by the flesh.

End up with wood - Hay + Straw AT
The Judgement Seat!

All we've lived for is torched + turned to
Ashes. Burned up + gone!

Sound + Fury Signifying Nothing

weighed in the balances + found wanting

v.14 Whereas you are not knowing what will happen tomorrow and what character is your life. For you are a mist which is appearing for a little time and then disappearing.

1 Chronicles 29:15

For we are here for but a moment, strangers in the land as our fathers were before us; our days on earth are like a shadow gone so soon without a trace.

Proverbs 27:1

Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

I'll never forget counseling with a father shortly after his son had been in an accident where a woman was killed and another boy was very seriously hurt. He was speaking to me in tears saying "My, how a split second can change lives."

George Kemble said:

One second I'm blessed with two eyes and the next I only have one!!

This is what James is saying:

The character of our lives is very temporary. - Short + Fragile!

The reason it is:

* We are like a mist which is appearing for a little time and then disappearing.

David Confronted This in Psalm 39:

Psalms 39

Psalm 39¹

For the music director, Jeduthun; a psalm of David.

The Net Bible

39:1 I decided,² "I will watch what I say

and make sure I do not sin with my tongue."³

I will put a muzzle over my mouth

while in the presence of an evil man."⁴

39:2 I was stone silent;⁵

I held back the urge to speak.⁶

My frustration grew;⁷

39:3 my anxiety intensified.⁸

As I thought about it, I became impatient.⁹

Finally I spoke these words:¹⁰

39:4 "O Lord, help me understand my mortality

and the brevity of life!"¹¹

Let me realize how quickly my life will pass!"¹²

39:5 Look, you make my days short-lived,¹³

and my life span is nothing from your perspective.¹⁴

Surely all people, even those who seem secure, are nothing but vapor.¹⁵

39:6 Surely people go through life as mere ghosts.¹⁶

Surely they accumulate worthless wealth

without knowing who will eventually haul it away."¹⁷

39:7 But now, O sovereign Master, upon what am I relying?

You are my only hope!18

39:8 Deliver me from all my sins of rebellion!

Do not make me the object of fools' insults!

39:9 I am silent and cannot open my mouth

because of what you have done.19

39:10 Please stop wounding me!20

You have almost beaten me to death!21

39:11 You severely discipline people for their sins;22

like a moth you slowly devour their strength.23

Surely all people are a mere vapor. (Selah)

39:12 Hear my prayer, O Lord!

Listen to my cry for help!

Do not ignore my sobbing!24

For I am dependent on you, like one residing outside his native land;

I am at your mercy, just as all my ancestors were.25

39:13 Turn your angry gaze away from me, so I can be happy

before I pass away.26

Tomorrow cannot be found on God's calendar.

Tomorrow is the road that leads to the town called Never.

Tomorrow is the locked door that shuts people out of Heaven.

Tomorrow is the nursemaid of perdition.

Tomorrow is Satan's word.

Those who expect to repent tomorrow usually die today.

Don't count on tomorrow.

Multitudes in the Valley.

Today if you hear his voice ...

2 Corinthians 6:2

Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation.

Do it Now!

- (#1) Receive Him As Savior.
- (#2) Believer : Surrender in Brokenness to His Purpose + Plan

v.15 Instead you ought to be saying: "If the Lord wills, we shall both live and do this or that."

This is the KEY VERSE to James' NINTH POINTER FOR PROGRESS:

* DEVELOP DEPENDENCE ON THE DESIGNER.

* In verses 13 & 14 James is pointing out:

THE SIN IN LEAVING GOD OUT OF OUR DAILY LIVES AND ACTIVITIES.

IF The Lord wills:

If we have given ourselves to the Lord and we are willing to do whatever He wants us to do, then if it is His will we will "LIVE AND DO THIS OR THAT."

Real progress comes in a Christian life when we are submissive to His perfect will for our lives and the leadership of His Spirit.

Patterns in life seem erratic at times because of giving over control.

Progressive dependence.

Ryrie says simply stated:

Dedication concerns whether I will direct my life or whether Christ will.

Dedication only secondarily concerns the issues or details of life and yet these are frequently made the substance of dedication. What I am saying is this, dedication does not pose the question of whether, for instance, one will go to the mission field, nor does it ask whether one will turn over his business to the Lord. It faces the Christian with the question of who will be the master of the years of his life. Once that is decided, then the question of the mission field or business as well as every other detail of life has automatically been involved in that basic decision.

Charles Jones says:

The three great decisions in life are:

1. Who are you going to live your life with?
2. What are you going to live your life in? and
3. What are you going to live your life for?
who " " " " " " " " " "

As Ryrie has pointed out:

Once we make the basic decision of giving ourselves to him, these other matters will be taken care of because we are wanting to do His perfect will.

Progress toward maturity can be hastened tremendously when God finds us submissive to His plan and purpose for our lives.

What relief comes when I really turn it over and I become dependant.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Time in the Word and prayer!!

MATT. 11:28-30

v.16 But now you are glorying in your arrogance. All such glorying is evil.

James has just asked that we humble ourselves before the Lord and He will exalt us and in verse 6 God is resisting the proud but is giving grace to the humble.

Philippians 3:

10-16

are my ambitions! Now I long to know Christ and the power shown by his resurrection: now I long to share his sufferings, even to die as he died, so that I may perhaps attain as he did, the resurrection from the dead. Yet, my brothers, I do not consider myself to have "arrived", spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect. But I keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me. My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: I leave the past behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal—my reward the honour of being called by God in Christ.

Don't let the devil get through your line.
My ambition is the true goal of the spiritually adult: make it yours too

All of us who are spiritually adult should set ourselves this sort of ambition, and if at present you cannot see this, yet you will find that this is the attitude which God is leading you to adopt. It is important that we go forward in the light of such truth as we have ourselves attained to.

Gal. 6:14

may be able to boast about your submission to their ruling. Yet God forbid that I should boast about anything or anybody except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which means that the world is a dead thing to me and I am a dead man to the world. But in

v.17 Therefore, to the one knowing how to do good, and is not doing it, to him it is sin.

In a lot of ways this verse is a summary of the entire epistle.

Exhorted

James has ~~commanded~~ us in:

James 1:22

to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

James 2:14

What good does it do my brethren if a person is saying I am having faith and he is not having works.

James 3:1

Stop becoming many teachers my brethren knowing that we shall receive a greater condemnation.

James 3:13

Who is wise and learned among you, let him show by his praiseworthy way of life his works with humility of wisdom.

James 4:11

Stop speaking evil of one another brethren, the one who is speaking evil of his brother or finding fault with his brother is speaking evil of the law and finding fault with the law. Now if you are finding fault with the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Barclay points out:

To continue now in the self-confident habit of seeking to dispose of one's own life is sin for the man who has been forcibly reminded that the future is not in his hands but in God's.

To continue to call the shots without consultation is Criminal!

Knowing How To do Good!

- ① "Surrender it all"
- ② Submit daily to His Direction
- ③ Focus on Obedience!
- ④ Trust Him Completely!
- ⑤ Develop Dependence ON the Designer!

Let Him Make A Master piece!!
Have Thine own way Lord!

CONCLUSION:

We would do well to develop dependence on the Designer.

His ways are best because He knows the end from the beginning.

Lead kindly light amid encircling gloom.

Lead thou me on, the night is dark and I am far from home.

Lead thou me on.

Keep my feet, I do not ask to see the distant scene.

One step is enough for me.

MATURITY IS REFLECTED BY YOUR DEPENDENCE.**HAVE YOU LEARNED TO TRUST GOD?**

Test

Fruit

Proverb 3:5-6

Tempt

Tongue

Psalm 37

Word

wisdom
Judgment

Isaiah 55:8-9

Love

Warfare

Dependence

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

*LESSON #1: Life is short and temporary. The question is: Who controls it?

*LESSON #2: Trust, obedience, and submission are keys to dependence.

*LESSON #3: Resistance to the Father's direction is sin. Partial love is sin.

*LESSON #4: An arrogant spirit should not manifest itself among believers.

~~Not~~ Mother's Day without Mom!
Found This ON The Obituary Page This
Week!

Our Mom

Our mom was our anchor,
Our mom was our wings,
Our mom was our source of strength,
And many wondrous things.

She showed us love and patience,
And taught us right from wrong.
And by the way she lived her life,
We knew her faith was strong.

She sacrificed so much for us
Expecting no reward,
But the best of all things she did,
Was to bring us to the Lord.

He knew you were suffering,
He knew you were in pain,
We all were there to say good-bye,
But still the questions, "Why?"

When we saw you sleeping,
So calm and free from pain,
We would not wish you back on earth
To suffer once again.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

New Album: Previous
Memories

Livin' on Love

Buyin' on Time.

Two young people without a thing
Say some vows and spread their wings
Settle down with just what they need
Livin' on love
She don't care 'bout what's in style
She just likes the way he smiles
It takes more than marble and tile
Livin' on love

Chorus

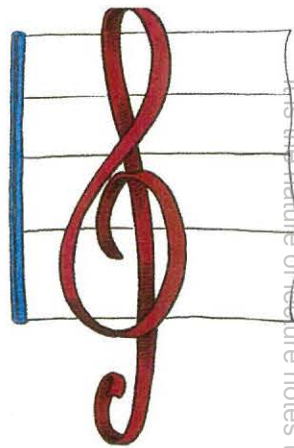
Livin' on love buyin' on time
Without out somebody nothin' ain't worth a dime
Just like an old fashioned story book rhyme
Livin' on love
It sounds simple that's what you're thinkin'
But love can walk through fire with out blinkin'
It doesn't take much when you get enough
Livin' on love

Two old people without a thing
Children gone but still they sing
Side by side in that front porch swing
Livin' on love
He can't see anymore. She can barely sweep the floor
Hand and hand they'll walk through that door
Just livin' on love

Chorus (2 times)

No, it doesn't take much when you get enough
Livin' on love

"Livin' on Love" by Alan Jackson. WB Music Corp. (ASCAP). From CD "Who Am I" by Alan Jackson.
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Monday Morning Church

Alan Jackson

You left your Bible on the dresser
so I put it in the drawer
'Cause I can't seem to talk to God
without yelling anymore
And when I sit at your piano,
I can almost hear those hymns
The keys are just collecting dust
but I can't close the lid

Chorus

*You left my heart as empty
as a Monday morning church
It used to be so full of faith and now it only hurts
And I can hear the devil whisper,
"Things are only getting worse"
You left my heart as empty
as a Monday morning church*

The preacher came by Sunday,
said he missed me at the service
He told me Jesus loves me
but I'm not sure I deserve it
'Cause the faithful man that you loved
is nowhere to be found
Since they took all that he believed
and laid it in the ground

Repeat Chorus

Well I still believe in Heaven
and I'm sure you've made it there
But as for me without your love, girl,
I don't have a prayer

Repeat Chorus

You left your Bible on the dresser,
so I put it in the drawer

"Monday Morning Church" by Alan Jackson from CD *What I Do* by Alan Jackson. © 2004 BMG Music. © 2004 Cowboy Chords Music (ASCAP) © 2004 World House of Hits (ASCAP), Brent Baxter / Erin Enderlin (ASCAP)



Dad Bombeck Wrote These Words :

(Forever, Erma: Best-Loved Writing From America's Favorite Humorist by Erma Bombeck) Kansas City, MO: Andrews & McMeel/Universal Press Syndicate. Copyright - Erma Bombeck Estate, 1996.

In 1947, three or four couples were outside the Lakeside Ballroom in Dayton, Ohio. We were too early to be admitted for the big-band dance, so we all wandered over to the adjoining amusement park.

Not far from the ballroom was the roller coaster. All of the boys began cajoling their dates to ride with them. The girls giggled and said no. It was too frightening, and it would mess up their hair and dresses.

I looked at my date and asked her if she wanted to go. She didn't hesitate. She said, "Sure, I'll go." I was surprised and looked at her again. She was slight, narrow-shouldered, with tiny hands and feet. But she had the greatest smile and laugh. Her smile had a charming space between her two front teeth. I thought, this is some kind of girl!

The Lakeside roller coaster was a rickety old leftover from the Depression. The frame was mostly made of unpainted 2-by-4's. No modern inspection by OSHA would have ever approved this for man's use.

The cars were linked together with what looked like modified train couplers. They were mostly red-painted wood with metal wheels and a coglike device that clicked loudly. The seats had worn black leather padding. There were no belts, but there were worn steel bars that had to be raised and lowered by the attendant.

The attendant was an old man in oil-stained bib overalls. He said little, but raised the bar and she entered the seat first, and I followed by her side. The bar clicked in place just above our waistlines.

There were two tapered 2-by-4s on the platform, each angled away from the other. He moved the one closer to the car to an upright position. The car moved forward, slowly picking up speed. The metal wheels on the metal track made so much noise you had to yell to your partner to be heard.

The car left the level starting track and began a slow ascent. In about 20 or 30 seconds, when the track became steeper, the cog device engaged the car. You could feel it grab. Then there was a distinct rhythmic clacking sound as the cog device labored to overcome the near-perpendicular angle of the track. You felt like it wouldn't make it, but just when it reached a point that forced the passengers to stare, not at the car ahead or the track, but only at the night sky, it plunged downward, a wild, almost free, fall. Maybe whatever controlled the speed was now broken.

She made her first sound since she had said, "Sure, I'll go." She screamed and clenched my arm. I said, "Hang on to the bar." She kept hanging on to my arm. Suddenly we were at the bottom, and we both were so relieved that we laughed, and I saw that smile again.

The ride continued, with bone-jarring twists and turns, dizzy heights and abrupt plunges. Sometimes we would enter a dark tunnel, so dark the

sparks from the wheels and tracks made it look like it was on fire.

She kept hanging on to my arm. I was gripping the metal bar so tightly I thought I would bend it. This was some ride. We were thrilled and exhilarated, scared and breathless.

We had been in and out of many tunnels. Each time they ended with almost blinding light in our eyes, and then on to another straight-up climb.

We started into a tunnel that seemed to plunge deeper than all the others. It kept dropping. We both sensed this one was really different. Finally, instead of the bright lights, we were back at the platform.

We looked at each other. We didn't speak, but we sensed the ride had changed. The man in the bib overalls was standing by the tapered 2-by-4s. He started to push one from its angle to a straight-up position. The car stopped. I told him the ride was great, but it was too short; we wanted to go on. He raised the bar. She smiled again, I looked at the attendant again. He said, "This is April 22, 1996—your ride is over. I looked over at her seat. She was gone."

pp. 271-3

"A Few More Rolling Stems,
AT Most, will land there
ON Fair Canaan's Coast."

STUDY # NINE

DEVELOP DEPENDENCE ON THE DESIGNER 4:13-17

KEY VERSE 4:15 Instead of your saying if the Lord wills, we shall both live and do this or that.

MEMORY VERSE: 4:14

TEXT: 4:13-17

Come now you who are saying today or tomorrow we shall go into this city and we shall spend a year and we shall carry on business and make a profit. Whereas you are not knowing what will happen tomorrow and of what character is your life for you are a mist which is appearing for a little time and then disappearing. Instead of your saying if the Lord wills, we shall both live and do this or that, but now you are glorying in your arrogance. All such glorying is evil. Therefore, to the one knowing how to do good and is not doing it, to him it is sin.

EXPOSITION: Paul says to the Romans in Romans 12: "And so dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God and let them be a living sacrifice, holy, the kind He can accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the fashions and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will see from your own experience how his ways will satisfy you entirely."

1. God has a plan for each of our lives and its fulfillment in life is to be doing his perfect will and to rest in the fact that he is in sovereign control.

Verse Thirteen: Come now you who are saying today or tomorrow we shall go into this city and we shall spend a year there and we shall carry on business and make a profit.

1. Matthew 16:26 "For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

2. Luke 12:19-20 "And I will say to my soul, soul thou hast much goods laid up for many years. Take thine ease, Eat, drink and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee and whose shall those things be which thou hast provided."

3. Matthew 6:34 "So don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time. Henry Jacobsen points out that "This is sinning through side-stepping of God. It is practical atheism to be planning without taking God into consideration. If we continue to shut God out of our lives, we commit sin."

4. Ryrie says "The flesh then is that old capacity which all men have to live lives which exclude God. In the Christian the flesh is that same capacity to leave God out of his life in actions. The sin nature is also called the old man. This phrase seems to emphasize the source of the capacity to glorify self instead of God. That is, it takes us back to Adam from whom we all received our sin natures. Conversion brings with it a new capacity with which we may now serve God in righteousness. Before salvation we were servants of sin but now we may be servants of righteousness. The unsaved man has only one capacity. But the Christian has two. This means that the unsaved person has only one course of action, to serve sin and self. Or to leave God out of his life, while the believer has an option. He may serve God and as long as he is in a human body, he may also chose to leave God out and live according to the old nature."

Phil. 3: "Their Glory is in what they should be ashamed of."

Salvation
Sanctification
Glorification
is All God's
responsibility

5. James is hitting hard on the fact that these who are leaving God out of their plans and carrying on business are living by the flesh.

Verse Fourteen: Whereas you are not knowing what will happen tomorrow and of what character is your life for you are a mist which is appearing for a little time and then disappearing.

1. Proverbs 27:1 says "Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

2. I'll never forget counseling with a father shortly after his son had been in an accident where a woman was killed and another boy was very seriously hurt. He was speaking to me in tears saying "My, how a split second can change lives."

3. This is what James is saying. The character of our lives is very temporary. The reason it is is we are like a mist which is appearing for a little time and then disappearing.

4. Tomorrow cannot be found on God's calendar. Tomorrow is the road that leads to the town called Never. Tomorrow is the locked door that shuts people out of Heaven. Tomorrow is the nursemaid of perdition. Tomorrow is Satan's word. Those who expect to repent tomorrow usually die today. Don't count on tomorrow. II Corinthians 6:2 "Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation."

Verse Fifteen: Instead of your saying If the Lord wills we shall both live and do this or that.

1. This is the key verse to James' ninth Pointer for Progress Develop Dependence on the Designer. In the 13th and 14th verse James is pointing out the sin in leaving God out of our daily lives and activities.
2. If we have given ourselves to the Lord and we are willing to do whatever he wants us to do, then if it is His will ^{you will} live and do this or that.
3. Real progress comes in a Christian life when we are submissive to His perfect will for our lives. ^{at} the leadership of His Spirit.
4. Ryrie says simply stated "Dedication concerns whether I will direct my life or whether Christ will." Dedication only secondarily concerns the issues or details of life and yet these are frequently made the substance of dedication. What I am saying is this, dedication does not pose the question of whether, for instance, one will go to the mission field, nor does it ask whether one will turn over his business to the Lord. It faces the Christian with the question of who will be the master of the years of his life. Once that is decided, then the question of the mission field or business as well as every other detail of life has automatically been involved in that basic decision.
5. Charles Jones says "The three great decisions in life are ① Who are you going to live your life with; ② What are you going to live your life in; and ③ What are you going to live your life for?"
6. As Ryrie has pointed out, once we make the basic decision of giving ourselves to him, these other matters will be taken care of because we are wanting to do His perfect will.
7. Progress toward maturity can be hastened tremendously when God finds us submissive to His plan and purpose for our lives.

What relief comes when I really turn it over and I become dependant.

8. Prov. 3:5 & 6

9. Time in The word + Prayer!!

1 Chron 29:15

For we are here for but a moment, strangers in the land; our fathers were before us; our days on earth are like a shadow; we are so soon without a trace."

Multitudes

in the valley
Today IF you hear his voice...

Patterns in life seem erratic at times because of giving over control. Progress is dependant.

Verse Sixteen: But now you are glorying in your arrogance. All such glorying is evil.

1. James has just asked that we humble ourselves before the Lord and He will exalt us and in Verse 6 God is resisting the proud but is giving grace to the humble.

Verse Seventeen: Therefore, to the one knowing how to do good and is not doing it, to him it is sin.

1. In a lot of ways this verse is a summary of the entire epistle. In 1:22 James has commanded us to be doers of the word and not hearers only. Chapter 2:14 "What good does it do my brethren if a person is saying I am having faith and he is not having works." Chapter 3:1 "Stop becoming many teachers my brethren knowing that we shall receive a greater condemnation." Chapter 3:13 "Who is wise and learned among you, let him show by his praiseworthy way of life his works with humility of wisdom." Chapter 4:11 "Stop speaking evil of one another brethren, the one who is speaking evil of his brother or finding fault with his brother is speaking evil of the law and finding fault with the law. Now if you are finding fault with the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge."
2. Barclay points out "To continue now in the self confident habit of seeking to dispose of one's own life is sin for the man who has been forcibly reminded that the future is not in his hands but in God's."

CONCLUSION: We would do well to develop dependence on the Designer. His ways are best because He knows the end from the beginning. Lead kindly light amid encircling gloom. Lead thou me on, the night is dark and I am far from home. Lead thou me on. Keep thou my feet. I do not ask to see the distant scene. One step is enough for me.

Maturity is reflected by Your dependance
Have You learned to Trust God.

Test	Fruit	Prov. 3:5+6
Tempt.	Tongue	Psalms. 37:
word	Judgement	ISA. 55: 8,9
love	War Fare	
	<u>Dependence</u>	
Lesson # 1	Life is Short + Temporary; The Question is who controls it.	
Lesson # 2	Trust, Obedience + Submission Are Keys to dependance.	
Lesson # 3	Resistance to the Father's direction is sin. (Partial love is sin)	
Lesson # 4	An Arrogant spirit should Not Manifest itself Among believers.	