



Faith in Action

Seeking the Lord

Avoid Slander

- NIV **James 4:11** Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you-- who are you to judge your neighbor?

Righteous Judgment

- NIV **Leviticus 19:15** "... do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.¹⁶ "Do not go about spreading slander among your people. "... I am the LORD. ¹⁷ "Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt. ¹⁸ "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Runaway Pride

- ^{NAS} **James 4:13** Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall 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 shall 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.

The Lord's Sovereign Will

- ^{ESV} **James 4:13** 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" ...¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."
 - The Lord is sovereign over the **when**, **where**, and **what** of our lives.
 - ^{NAS} **Psalm 115:3** But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.
 - ^{NAS} **Psalm 135:6** Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.
 - ^{NAS} **Psalm 33:11** The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

The Lord's Sovereign Plan

- NAS **Jeremiah 29:10** "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. ¹² 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ 'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ 'And I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

What about adversity?

- It's in the plan.

➤^{NAS} **1 Peter 4:12** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

➤^{NAS} **Hebrews 5:7** In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. ⁸ Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

➤^{NAS} **Philippians 3:10** that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.
- ^{KJV} **John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
- ^{NAS} **James 1:2** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

What about delays?

- It's in the plan.

- ^{ESV} **Psalm 90:4** For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.
- ^{NAS} **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness ...
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 10:35** Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.
- ^{ESV} **Psalm 27:14** Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
- ^{NAS} **Psalm 147:11** The LORD favors those ... who wait for His lovingkindness.
- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 40:31** Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

The Outcome is Certain

- **NIV Isaiah 46:9** Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.¹⁰ I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.
- **NAS Isaiah 43:11** "I, even I, am the LORD; And there is no savior besides Me.¹² "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And I am God.¹³ "Even from eternity I Am; And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"
- **NAS Revelation 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Seek the Lord and Walk in His Way

- NAS **Jeremiah 29:13** 'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
- NAS **James 4:17** Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.
- NAS **Hebrews 3:7** Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, ⁸ Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness...¹³ But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end;

What does the Lord require of us?

- NAS **Deuteronomy 10:12** "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,¹³ and to keep the LORD's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?"
- NAS **Mark 12:29** Jesus answered, "The foremost [commandment] is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord;³⁰ and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'³¹ 'The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- ^{NAS} **Galatians 5:5** For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.
- ^{NIV} **Hebrews 12:14** Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

What about tomorrow?

- If I focus on living for the Lord today, how do I know I will end up where he wants me tomorrow?
 - ^{NAS} **Jonah 1:1** The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amitai saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city, and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."³ But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.
 - ^{NAS} **Jonah 3:1** Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you."³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD...

He will get us there.

- ^{ESV} **James 4:15** Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills,
we **will** live and do this or that."

Conclusion

The Lord's Plan is Sure

- NAS **Jeremiah 29:11** 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ And I will be found by you,' declares the LORD ...
- ESV **James 4:15** Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we **will** live and do this or that."

The Outcome is Secure

- NAS **1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Seek the Lord Today

- NAS **Jeremiah 29:13** 'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
- NAS **Matthew 6:33** "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.
34 "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.