

**“Understanding the Nature of Life and Submitting to God's Will” 3/20/11
James 4:13-18**

James- Pressing on Toward Spiritual Maturity

The spiritually mature will: 1) be patient in trials/testing; 2) practice the truth (through loving others; 3) control the tongue; 4) be a peacemaker, not a trouble maker; submissive; 5) be prayerful in various challenges (Warren Wiersbe on book of James)

READ Luke 12:16-21

Main Point- We need to avoid arrogance and make a conscious decision to live and submit all our plans to the Lord's will recognizing that we will be held accountable.

POINT 1- To grow in maturity we must understand the PERPLEXITY in life **job, health, family, friends, food, clothing, house, politics, natural disasters**

- A. The perplexity of life should cause us to realize our IGNORANCE (4:13; Isaiah 14:13-14; are you certain? Prov 27:1; Jer 29:11)

Going *God wants us to recognize that we have no real influence over life!*
Deeper

POINT 2- To grow in maturity we must understand the PRECARIOUSNESS in life **LORD, we know that people do not control their own destiny. It is not in their power to determine what will happen to them. (Jer 10:23)**

- A. The precariousness of life should cause us to seek Him who does KNOW (4:14a; Matthew 6:30-34; Prov 20:24; 16:9; Jer 10:23)

The steps of a person are ordained by the LORD— so how can anyone understand his own way? (Pro 20:24)

Going *God wants us to recognize that we are dependent on His knowledge!*
Deeper

POINT 3- To grow in maturity we must understand the PASSING nature in life

- A. The passing nature of life should cause in us a deep level of HUMILITY (4:14b-15; Ps 39:5; 102:11; 103:15; Isaiah 40:6-8; spend, waste, invest?)

Going *God wants us to recognize the shortness of life and to be wise!*
Deeper

POINT 4- To grow in maturity we must understand the POWERLESSNESS in life

- A. The powerlessness in life should cause us to seek the Lord's GUIDANCE (4:16-17; Prov 19:21; Isaiah 30:1; Romans 12:1-2; Luke 12:47-48)

There are many plans in a person's mind, but it is the counsel of the LORD which will stand (Pro 19:21)

Going *God wants us to embrace his guidance and avoid arrogance!*
Deeper **(Proverbs 3:5-6; 16:3)**

*If you had to choose someone to order your life, which kind of person would it be?
1) all knowing-1 John 3:20; 2) Love at center- Ps 33:11; 3) Powerful- Rev 19:6;
4) Unchanging- Mal 3:6; 5) All wise- Ephesians 1:4-8*

For next week: Please read James 5:1-13; 1 Timothy 6