

Digging Deeper: James 4:13–17 (*Boasting About Tomorrow*)

Mind the Gap Tomorrow – May Never Come

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Day 1

Pray for Heart Knowledge then read James 4:13–17: “¹³ Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

Day 2

Pray about Boasting. How do you feel the moment when things that you have been praying about or hoping for come to be? If you are like most, you become excited and can’t wait to share the good news with others. At some point, you may even begin planning your life (as well as the lives of others) around the effects of change. James 4:13 talks about the point when boasting becomes problematic. It is okay to feel good when things go your way. However, it becomes sin when you deliberately leave God out of your plans.

Day 3

Keep praying about Boasting. There are other common instances where boasting exists in and around our lives. For example, we see bragging all the time in Christianity. An increasing number of pastors and ministers are boasting about their big ministries and the number of people they save, baptize, serve, etc. Showing off your “head knowledge” about God’s Word can lead to boasting. Be careful also when people flatter you because that can lead to pride and a big ego. Boasting and bragging becomes sin when we show pride and glorify ourselves. Why, because it takes the glory away from the *one* who deserves it, which is the Lord.

Day 4

Pray for the Solution. Read James 4:15, which provides the solution to the problem of boasting. A significant reward along the path of righteousness is to be known by God our Heavenly Father. John Piper in his book *Desiring God* points us to a couple places in the Bible that address the difference between knowing God and being known by Him, 1 Corinthians 8:3 and Galatians 4:9. Love God, and practice elevating him above everyone and everything in your life.

Day 5

Pray for Understanding. Read James 4:16. Also read Proverbs 3:5–6, which says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Day 6

Pray for Spiritual Discernment. Read James 4:17, and pattern your life accordingly.