

Willing Faith

James 4:13-17

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13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

16 But now ye rejoyce in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Three Responses To God's Will

- 1. People follow God's will trusting His leading**
- 2. People avoid God's will living lives without ever consulting it**
- 3. People use and manipulate God's will to live the way they want under the idea that God is blessing them**

A Needed Perspective

**God is holy and sovereign.
He does as He wills and
He will not be manipulated
by me.**

Proverbs 14:12

**There is a way which seemeth
right unto a man, but
the end thereof are the
ways of death.**

Three Fallacies Concerning God's Will

- 1. If good things are happening, then I must be in good standing with God**
- 2. If I am saved, I can live as I want w/out much fear of repercussion**
- 3. God doesn't care about the details of my life if I make the best of it.**

**We Need A Faith That Will
Follow God's Will In Every
Area of Our Life**

Man's Way

Invictus by William Ernest Henley

Out o the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul.
In the fell clutch of circumstance,
I have not winced nor cried aloud,
Under the bludgeonings of chance,
my head is bloody, but unbowed.
Beyond this place of wrath and tears,
looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years finds,
and shall find me unafraid.
It matters not how strait the gate,
how charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.

I. The Pattern (4:13)

“Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:”

A. Not taking God into consideration

legos - to speak out after careful and thoughtful planning

B. Consider Jewish history

C. What the Bible says

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

I. The Pattern (4:13)

D. How the self-made man acts

1. Choice of OCCASION (when)

“I will choose my own time.”

2. Choice of LOCATION (where)

“I will choose my own place.”

3. Choice of DURATION (how long)

“I will choose my own schedule.”

4. Choice of VOCATION (what)

“I will choose my own enterprise.”

5. Choice of CULMINATION (why)

“I will choose my own goals and results.”

**Beware Of Not Caring
About What God Thinks**

II. The Problem (4:14, 16)

14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

A. Foolish ignorance

- 1. Living as if God doesn't exist or is ambivalent toward man's behavior and ambitions**

Practical Atheism

- 2. Foolish to live for today without keeping eternity in mind.**

Luke 12:13-21

II. The Problem (4:14, 16)

16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

B. Costly arrogance

1. I know better than God

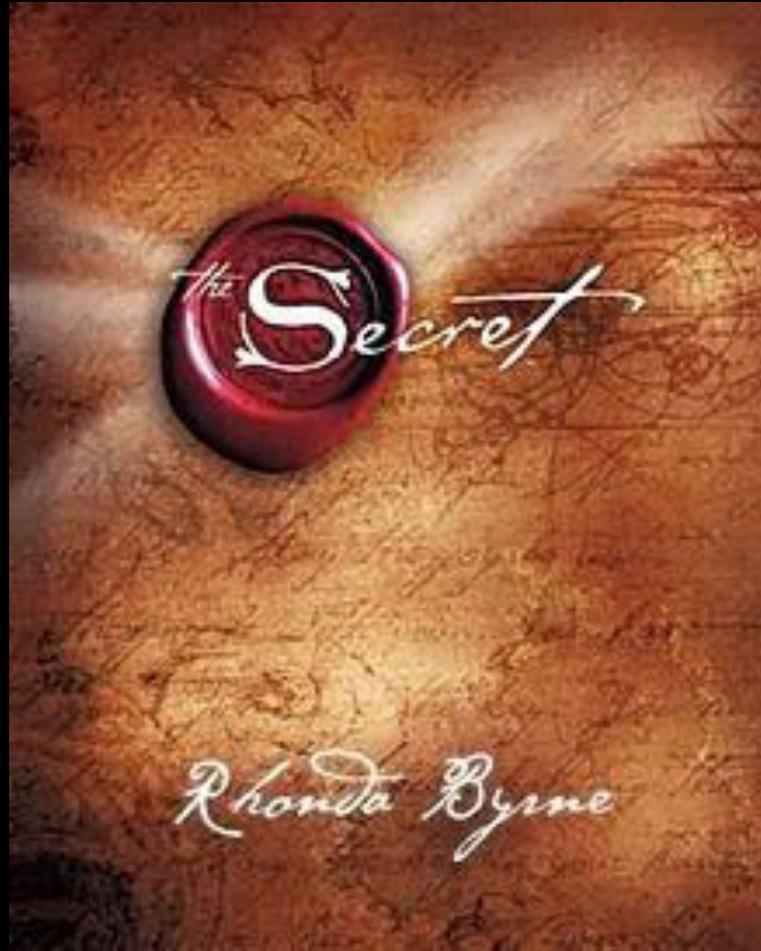
Self - Theism

2. Rejoice = boast (to be loud-mouthed)

3. Boastings = brag

(empty braggart talk, based on false pretense)

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4. Evil = bringing toils, annoyances, perils

Ephesians 5:16

**We Cannot Control
Our Future**

III. The Principle (4:15)

15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

A. Life is based on what God desires, wills, and expects

III. The Principle (4:15)

15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

B. Six things God wills

- 1. He wills that you know Him in salvation**
- 2. He wills that those who know Him serve Him**
- 3. He wills that you trust Him with all your heart and obey His Word**
- 4. He wills that you share w/ others the hope that is within you**
- 5. He wills that you worship Him and don't conform to the world.**
- 6. He wills that you are a faithful steward of His blessings**

III. The Principle (4:15)

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

C. Trust in the Lord

- 1. Submit to who He is, what He has done, and what He demands**
- 2. Recognizing a higher authority
Put God in charge**
- 3. Living for a higher priority
Put what God wants first**

III. The Principle (4:15)

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

D. Acknowledge Him

1. Be dependent on Him

2. Rely on the One who is always dependable

3. Obey in all areas of life

IV. The Pronouncement (4:17)

**Therefore to him that
knoweth to do good,
and doeth it not, to him
it is sin.**

**What Is Your Faith
Willing To Do?**

