

JAMES STUDY: THE SHOE LEATHER GOSPEL
SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
“Faith and the Will of God”
James 4: 13-17
Dr. Josh Wilson

Key Truth:

How we consistently respond to the will of God reveals whether our faith is real or fake

“The Scriptures give many marks of true Christianity, such as love for God, repentance from sin, humility, devotion to God’s glory, prayer, love for others, separation from the world, growth, and obedience....but nothing more clearly summarizes the character of a true believe than a desire to do the will of God.” - John MacArthur

Ps. 40:8 “I delight to do Your will, O God; your Law is within my heart.”

Ps. 143: 10 “Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.”

Mk 3:35 “Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

Mt7: 21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but He who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”

1 Pet. 4:2 “Live the rest of your time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”

Greatest example of doing the will of God....Jesus!

Jn 6:38 **“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of Him who sent me.** And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Overview of James 4:

- James started chapter 4 talking about war with God and ends chapter 4 talking about the will of God.
- When a Christian is out of the will of God....he becomes a troublemaker and not a peacemaker.

Biblical Examples Wrong Attitudes Towards the Will of God:

1. L_____ : moved into Sodom and brought trouble on his family
2. David: committed adultery and brought trouble to his family and kingdom
3. Jonah: disobeyed God and almost costs his shipmen their lives

THREE NEGATIVE RESPONSES TO THE WILL OF GOD:

1. Negative Response #1: I _____ the Will of God (vv.13-14)

- Many Jewish people were successful businessmen, merchants who sought out trade centers in which to do business; thus, the example James uses would've been common.
- The problem lies in what the business man does NOT do....lots of extensive planning and preparations but totally ignored God! God was not apart of the man's agenda at all.
 - a. Set their own t _____ - "today or tomorrow"
 - b. Set their own l _____ for doing business- "such and such city"
 - c. Set their own d _____ - "spend a year there"
 - d. Set their own o _____ - "make money"
- James is rebuking those who consistently think through and articulate their plans as if God did not exist, as if we are somehow in c _____ of our future and on the throne.

BUT... we can be guilty of being a "practical atheist" - living our life without considering God's direction or influence

Ex. Difficult decision at work.

Ex. Retirement Plans

James' Response:

a. Life is s _____.

Prov. 27:1 "Do not boast about tomorrow for you do not know what a day may bring forth."

b. Life is f _____.

Ps. 90:10 "The length of our days is seventy years or eighty, if we have strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away."
(Ps. 102:11; Ps 103: 15-16; Is 40: 6-8; 1 Pet. 1:24)

2. Negative Response #2: D _____ the Will of God (v.16)

- This is the person who acknowledges there is a God and He does have a plan and will for us, but they r _____ it anyways. (agnostic)

3. Negative Response #3: D _____ the Will of God (v.17)

- This is the person who affirms God's existence and God's will...but then blatantly disobeys it.
"Right" (Kalos): what is qualitatively good, morally excellent, worthy of honor, upright
- More serious than the previous two!

- The will of God is revealed in the Word of God...So to know the Word of God and then choose to disobey over and over again is a dangerous place to live.

“The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”
- Jesus in Luke 12: 47-48

Response #4....A Positive Response: S_____ to the Will of God (v.15)

- James is referring to the person who habitually and consistently desires and lives to do what pleases God in obedience to His will
- The mark of a true Christian is that from day to day, they want to k_____ God’s will for their life so they might strive to o_____ it.

“A strong desire to do the will of God consistently in life is a sure mark of a transformed life.”

John MacArthur

“If we are in love with the Lord, obedience does not cost us anything- it is a delight!”

Oswald Chambers

“The dangerous life is not in the will of God but out of the will of God. The safest place in the world is right where God wants you. “ Warren Wiersbe

Have Thine own way Lord
Have Thine own way
Thou art the potter I am the clay
Mold me and make me after Thy will
While I am waiting yielded and still

Have Thine own way Lord
Have Thine own way
Search me and try me Master today
Whiter than snow Lord wash me just now
As in Thy presence humbly I bow

Have Thine own way Lord
Have Thine own way
Hold over my being absolute sway
Filled with Thy spirit till all can see
Christ only always living in me

