



The Book of James: Chapter 4:13-17

- **PRAYER:** Father, reveal the depth and understanding of Your Word to us tonight!

New Living Translation (NLT)	English Standard Version (ESV)	Passion Translation (PAS)
<p>¹³ Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.” ¹⁴ How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone. ¹⁵ What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.</p> <p>¹⁷ Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. (James 4:13–17 NLT-SE)</p>	<p>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”— ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (James 4:13–17 ESV)</p>	<p>¹³ Listen, those of you who are boasting, “Today or tomorrow we’ll go to another city and spend some time and go into business and make heaps of profit!” ¹⁴ But you don’t have a clue what tomorrow may bring. For your fleeting life is but a warm breath of air that is visible in the cold only for a moment and then vanishes! ¹⁵ Instead you should say, “Our tomorrows are in the Lord’s hands and if he is willing we will live life to its fullest and do this or that.” ¹⁶ But here you are, boasting in your ignorance, for to be presumptuous about what you’ll do tomorrow is evil! ¹⁷ So if you know of an opportunity to do the right thing today, yet you refrain from doing it, you’re guilty of sin. (James 4:13–17 PASSION)</p>

- KEY WORDS...

- **Profit**

- S G2770 *kerdaino* 17x
- **Mounce...**to gain as a matter of profit, Mt. 25:17; to win, acquire possession of, Mt. 16:26; to profit in the avoidance of, to avoid, Acts 27:21; in NT Cristo/n, to win Christ, to become possessed of the privileges of the Gospel, Phil. 3:8; to win over from estrangement, Mt. 18:15; to win over to embrace the Gospel, 1 Cor. 9:19, 20, 21, 22; 1 Pet. 3:1; absol. to make gain, Jas. 4:13 gain; win.
- Vines...

- **Wills**

- S G2309 *thelo* 208x
- **Mounce...**to exercise the will, properly by an unimpassioned operation; to be willing, Mt. 17:4; to be inclined, disposed, Rom. 13:3; to choose, Lk. 1:62; to intend, design, Lk. 14:28; to will, Jn. 5:21; 21:22; I could wish, Gal. 4:20 desire; want; will.
- **Vines...**signifies (I), literally, (a) “to gain something,” Matt. 16:26; 25:16 (in the best mss.), 17, 20, 22; Mark 8:36; Luke 9:25; (b) “to get gain, make a profit,” Jas. 4:13; (II), metaphorically, (a) “to win persons,” said (1) of “gaining” an offending brother who by being told privately of his offense, and by accepting the representations, is won from

alienation and from the consequences of his fault, Matt. 18:15; (2) of winning souls into the kingdom of God by the gospel, 1 Cor. 9:19, 20 (twice), 21, 22, or by godly conduct, 1 Pet. 3:1 (RV, "gained"); (3) of so practically appropriating Christ to oneself that He becomes the dominating power in and over one's whole being and circumstances, Phil. 3:8 (RV, "gain"); (b) "to gain things," said of getting injury and loss, Acts 27:21, RV, "gotten." See Get.

• **Boast**

- S G2744 *kauchaomai* 37x
- **Mounce**...to glory, boast, Rom. 2:17, 23; to boast of a person or thing, to undertake a complimentary testimony to, 2 Cor. 12:5; to rejoice, exult, Rom. 5:2, 3, 11 boast; brag; rejoice.
- **Vines**...and its related words *katakauchaomai*, "to glory or boast" and the nouns *kauchesis* and *kauchema*, translated "boast," and "boasting," in the KJV, are always translated "glory," and "glorying" in the RV, e.g., 2 Cor. 10:15; 11:10, 17; Eph. 2:9. See Glory.

- **BOASTING IN PRESUMPTION...**

"We all tend to make zealous judgments and thereby close ourselves off from revelation. If we feel that we already know something in its totality, then we fail to keep our ears and eyes open to that which may expand or even changes that which we so zealously think we know." ~ Madeleine L'Engle

"We are presumptuous not when we marvel at His grace, but when we reject it." ~ Max Lucado

"God has kept some things back from us. Let us not proceed as though all has been revealed." ~ Leon Morris

- **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

- Why is presumption considered a sin?
- Describe the process you go through, personally, when you are seeking God's direction on a specific matter.
- Where are the "weaknesses" in your process?
- Why is boasting so dangerous?
- What encouragement would you give to someone who is getting confused trying the "hear God" on a specific direction they think the Lord is leading them?
- What do you do when "fear" enters into your decision-making?