

Navigating A New Year
James 4:13-17

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1. Do you ever feel like this world has a leash around your neck and it won't slow down?
2. It reminds me that nearly 40% of Americans feel they live a rushed lifestyle.
3. So how do you know if you are one of those hurried Americans?
6. We are going to move through these passage, following a very simple outline.

I. The Folly Of The Future. James 4:13 **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."**

- A. Here is a reminder for all of us as we begin a new year.
 1. This phrase, "**now listen**," occurs only here in the Bible.
- B. Jesus told a story of fatal presumption in **Luke 12:16-21**.
 1. It is the parable about a "rich man," a farmer whose fields "yielded plentifully."

II. James Tells Us Of The Frailty of Life. James 4:14 **"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."**

- A. The second truth we see in this passage is the frailty of life.
- B. James gives us to two reasons why we should never presume upon the future:
- C. The Psalmist gives us a reminder that our lives are brief. (**Psalm 90:1-4, 9-12**)
 1. **"With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Pet.3:8)**

III. Faith Is The Only Way To Live. James 4:15-16 "Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil."

- A. We need to realize that we are not in total control of our lives + God is.
- B. James is challenging us here to demonstrate an attitude of submission to God.

IV. There is to Be Fervency of Obedience. James 4:17 "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

- A. Did you know that you can sin by doing nothing?
- B. Do you have any delayed disobedience in your life?
 1. **"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."(2 Cor.6:2)**