

# GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

## Making Plans & The Cosmic Battle

**James 4:13-17**

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Wise Christians strategically make plans  
while humbly submitting to God's will.

**Folly: Pridefully Making Plans in View of Self-Reliance | Verses 13-14, 16**

### 3 Presumptions When Making Plans without God in View

1. Presumption of being self-sufficient/sovereignly autonomous.
2. Presumption of having "perfect" understanding.
3. Presumption of their humanity.

## Wisdom: Humbly Making Plans in View of God's Will | Verses 15, 17

God always gets His way and that's a good thing. When James talks about "If the Lord *wills*", he is referring to God's sovereign, wise, good, loving, and unchanging *will of decree*. What God wills, will happen, and what happens is according to God's will. (e.g. Isa. 46:10; Dan. 4:34-35; Pro. 19:21; Acts 18:21)

### Heidelberg Catechism

Question 27, "What is God's providence? God's almighty and ever present power by which He, as with His hand, still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand [according to the counsel of His will]."

(e.g. Pro. 16:9, 33; Eph. 1:11)

"Remember this, had any other condition been better for you than the one in which you are, divine love would have put you there." – C.H. Spurgeon

### Questions to Consider

1. What does someone's response to their plans getting disrupted say about how they entered into their plans?
2. Why does James describe the statement in verse 13 as arrogant? In other words, what is arrogant about the statement?
3. Do you cling tightly to your schedule, getting agitated when something doesn't go as planned? When you do get agitated, what are you valuing more than submission to God?
4. Do you accept interruptions to your plans as from the hand of the God? What's more, are you receptive to what He might be having you do with this "interruption"?
5. Why is it good news that God is in charge of your future?
6. When you next plan something, how will you remember that God is in charge, and you are not?
7. Even though it's not necessary to say "if the Lord wills" every time you make plans, how can you work to cultivate that kind of dependence on God in your own life and thinking?