

## James 4 - Living in God's Sovereignty Pt. 1-2

December 21, 2014 AM, PM

### James 4:13-17

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 rejoice 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.**

**TO KNOW THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN IS TO WALK IN ABSOLUTE SURRENDER TO HIM AND ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE UPON HIM.**

### Psalms 39:4-6

4 **LORD, MAKE ME TO KNOW MINE END, AND THE MEASURE OF MY DAYS, WHAT IT IS; THAT I MAY KNOW HOW FRAIL I AM.**

5 Behold, **THOU HAST MADE MY DAYS AS AN HANDBREADTH; AND MINE AGE IS AS NOTHING BEFORE THEE: VERILY EVERY MAN AT HIS BEST STATE IS ALTOGETHER VANITY.** Selah.

6 **SURELY EVERY MAN WALKETH IN A VAIN SHEW: SURELY THEY ARE DISQUIETED IN VAIN:** he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

**ONE OF THE GREAT BIBLICAL TENSIONS OF WALKING BY FAITH IS THE ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN EVERY LIFE AND CIRCUMSTANCE VERSUS MAN'S FREE WILL (INCLUDING THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR CHOICES AND ACTIONS).**

### Psalms 37:23-24

23 **THE STEPS OF A [GOOD] MAN ARE ORDERED** (*set up, established, fixed*) **BY THE LORD:** and **HE DELIGHTETH** (*take pleasure in, desire, be pleased*) **IN HIS WAY** (*journey, road*).

24 **THOUGH HE FALL** (*to fall by calamity, to fail or fall short personally*), **HE SHALL NOT BE UTTERLY CAST DOWN:** for **THE LORD UPHOLDETH HIM WITH HIS HAND.**

### Psalms 139:16 NAS

"Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; **AND IN YOUR BOOK WERE ALL WRITTEN THE DAYS THAT WERE ORDAINED FOR ME, WHEN AS YET THERE WAS NOT ONE OF THEM.**

### John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

**Galatians 6:7-8**

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

**1 Peter 1:2**

"ELECT ACCORDING TO THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD THE FATHER, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

**Romans 8:29**

"FOR THOSE WHOM HE FOREKNEW, HE ALSO PREDESTINED to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren."

**Acts 15:18**

"KNOWN UNTO GOD ARE ALL HIS WORKS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD."

**IT TAKES A LIFETIME TO DISCOVER AND LEARN CONTENTMENT IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN. LIFE IS SPENT LEARNING, THROUGH CONTINUAL EXERCISE, TRIAL AND ERROR, WHERE AND HOW WE FIT IN GOD'S PLAN IN THIS LIFE.**

**Proverbs 16:9**

"A MAN'S HEART DEVISETH HIS WAY; BUT THE LORD DIRECTETH HIS STEPS."

**Proverbs 19:21**

"There are MANY DEVICES (*design, plan, scheme*) IN A MAN'S HEART; Nevertheless THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD, THAT SHALL STAND."

**Proverbs 20:24**

"MAN'S GOINGS ARE OF THE LORD; HOW CAN A MAN THEN UNDERSTAND HIS OWN WAY?"

**Jeremiah 10:23**

"I know, O LORD, that A MAN'S WAY IS NOT IN HIMSELF, NOR IS IT IN A MAN WHO WALKS TO DIRECT HIS STEPS.

**WHEN WE ARE AT PEACE AND REST, WE ARE LIVING IN HARMONIOUS SURRENDER TO GOD'S PLAN. WHEN WE ARE AGITATED, STRUGGLING, STRIVING AND FRUSTRATED, WE HAVE BECOME DISCONTENT WITH GOD'S PLAN, PRESUMING WE DESERVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT, BETTER OR MORE.**

**Ecclesiastes 2:10-11**

10 And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

11 **THEN I LOOKED ON ALL THE WORKS THAT MY HANDS HAD WROUGHT, AND ON THE LABOUR THAT I HAD LABOURED TO DO: AND BEHOLD, ALL WAS VANITY AND VEXATION OF SPIRIT, AND THERE WAS NO PROFIT UNDER THE SUN.**

**Acts 9:4-6**

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: **IT IS HARD FOR THEE TO KICK AGAINST THE PRICKS**.

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, **WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO**? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

**Philippians 4:11-13**

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: **FOR I HAVE LEARNED, IN WHATSOEVER STATE I AM, THEREWITH TO BE CONTENT**.

12 **I KNOW BOTH HOW TO BE ABASED, AND I KNOW HOW TO ABOUND: EVERYWHERE AND IN ALL THINGS I AM INSTRUCTED BOTH TO BE FULL AND TO BE HUNGRY, BOTH TO ABOUND AND TO SUFFER NEED**.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

**Matthew 11:28-30**

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 **TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF ME; FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART: AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS**.

30 **FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT**.

**SUCCESS IN LIFE CANNOT BE MEASURED BY ANY HUMAN STANDARD OR EXPECTATION. WHAT GOD CALLS SUCCESS, MAN CALLS A FAILURE. WHAT MAN CALLS SUCCESS, GOD CALLS FAILURE. JOSEPH WAS AN ABSOLUTE SUCCESS IN GOD'S PLAN WHEN HE WAS BETRAYED, FORGOTTEN AND IMPRISONED. SUCCESS IS MEASURED BY ONLY ONE STANDARD; AM I IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL?**

**1 Timothy 6:5-6**

5 **PERVERSE DISPUTINGS OF MEN OF CORRUPT MINDS, and DESTITUTE OF THE TRUTH, SUPPOSING THAT GAIN IS GODLINESS: FROM SUCH WITHDRAW THYSELF**.

6 **BUT GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN**.

**Acts 2:22-24**

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--

23 this Man, **DELIVERED OVER BY THE PREDETERMINED PLAN AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD**, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

**Romans 9:14-18**

14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

16 **SO THEN IT IS NOT OF HIM THAT WILLETH, NOR OF HIM THAT RUNNETH, BUT OF GOD THAT SHEWETH MERCY.**

17 For the scripture saith unto **PHAROAH, EVEN FOR THIS SAME PURPOSE HAVE I RAISED THEE UP, THAT I MIGHT SHEW MY POWER IN THEE,** and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29**

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 **BUT GOD HATH CHOSEN THE FOOLISH THINGS OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND THE WISE; AND GOD HATH CHOSEN THE WEAK THINGS OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND THE THINGS WHICH ARE MIGHTY;**

28 **AND BASE THINGS OF THE WORLD, AND THINGS WHICH ARE DESPISED, HATH GOD CHOSEN, yea, AND THINGS WHICH ARE NOT, TO BRING TO NOUGHT THINGS THAT ARE:**

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

**ANY SUCCESS IN THIS LIFE IS ORCHESTRATED BY GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN AND WORK. HUMAN EFFORTS AND METHODS ARE NEVER ULTIMATELY, THE REASON FOR SUCCESS.**

**Ecclesiastes 9:11-12**

11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that **THE RACE IS NOT TO THE SWIFT, NOR THE BATTLE TO THE STRONG, NEITHER YET BREAD TO THE WISE, NOR YET RICHES TO MEN OF UNDERSTANDING, NOR YET FAVOUR TO MEN OF SKILL; BUT TIME AND CHANCE HAPPENETH TO THEM ALL.**

12 **FOR MAN ALSO KNOWETH NOT HIS TIME:** as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

23 Thus saith the LORD, **LET NOT THE WISE MAN GLORY IN HIS WISDOM, NEITHER LET THE MIGHTY MAN GLORY IN HIS MIGHT, LET NOT THE RICH MAN GLORY IN HIS RICHES:**

24 **BUT LET HIM THAT GLORIETH GLORY IN THIS, THAT HE UNDERSTANDETH AND KNOWETH ME, That I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: For in these things I delight, saith the LORD.**