



JOINT TASK FORCE CIVIL SUPPORT

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Submit to God's Plans

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We are extremely adept at making plans—detailed plans concerning what career we will settle upon, what kind of home we will buy, the amount of money we will save, the number of kids we will have, and the vacations we will take. Indeed, the plans we devise are often quite impressive! So much so that we like to tell people about them and brag a little on the great things we intend to do with our lives.

Unfortunately, in all of this planning, we all-too-often fail to ask God what He wants us to concentrate our efforts on. We frequently turn a blind eye to the will of God and strike out on our own paths, seeking our own glory. When I find myself in this place—as I sometimes do—I cannot help but think of passages like James 4:13-15. Therein James writes, “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’—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. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’” What a powerful commentary on the feebleness of our plans against the backdrop of the impending unknown! We plan as if we are in control of the future; yet, our destinies are in the hands of another, namely, God.

In light of this, our perspective should be one of eternity and our focus should be on the One Eternal. It is not ours to make plans of our own accord; rather, we are called to submit ourselves to the plan, purpose, and will of God. We are to give our attention and, indeed, our lives to Him. To do otherwise, James goes on to say, is evil (4:16) and sinful (4:17). We are servants of God; therefore, we are obliged to seek the counsel of our King as we negotiate the labyrinth of this world.

So, ask yourself, “Am I making my own plans, or am I submitting to His plan?” Are you a living for today or for eternity?

May the Lord bless you richly!