

TO GO

1. Have you ever made plans that you thought were in God's will, only to see them fall through? What were they and how did you process the aftermath?
2. Read James 4:13–14. In what ways do we often assume our own autonomy or immortality? Why is this so dangerous for followers of God?
3. Read James 4:15. Why is it so important to say “If the Lord wills” as we make plans for the future? How does this encourage or discourage careful planning? How does the role of praying in faith intersect with the need to pray according to God's will?
4. Read Matthew 6:9–13. In what ways does James' exhortation fit with Jesus' teaching on prayer? How did Jesus model this?
5. Read James 4:16–17. Describe the difference between sins of commission and sins of omission. Why is it so important to God that we keep an open hand with Him?
6. How can you apply this approach in your life today? In what ways do you need to trust God more fully for his will to be accomplished? Write those down, and pray through them, asking God to teach you to trust Him no matter what.