

The background consists of a dark blue, textured surface with numerous 3D-rendered numbers in various shades of blue and grey. The numbers are scattered across the frame, creating a sense of depth and complexity. The lighting is soft, highlighting the three-dimensional nature of the digits.

**What do you do when your
plans or timing are not
God's?**

James 4:13-17



hurry, but it seems like God is
not?

James 5:7-12

Lessons from James 4:13-17

- ◆ Don't plan the future without taking God into consideration.
- ◆ Don't presume on a future you have no control of.
- ◆ Don't postpone until the future what God has instructed you to do today.
- ◆ While you cannot predict the future, you must learn to face it honestly before God.

What are the 3 common mistakes we make about our plans and the future?

Planning	Planning the future without God
Presuming	Presuming to know the future.
Postponing	Postponing what should be done today.

#1 Planning the future without God.

- ◇ The sin of failing to come to God in prayer is one of the most common offenses a Christian commits – you are calculating on time to come without reference to God’s providence, as if the future is your hands.
- ◇ James is not condemning “wise planning” – but doing things without God.
- ◇ **Gen 11:3-9; Prov 27:1; Isaiah 56:12**
- ◇ **Luke 12:13-21** – we all have plans, but do they align with God’s plan? If not, then we place ourselves at risk for disappointment.

#2 Presuming to know the future

- ◇ To presume is to “take God for granted” (arrogance towards God).
- ◇ When you presume:
- ◇ #1 You fail to comprehend the complexity of life – life is so COMPLEX. **Isaiah 56:12 – 57:1**
- ◇ You count on accomplishing so much – today, tomorrow, spend a year, buy and sell, make a profit etc. – setting yourself up for great disappointment because you never know what the next second may bring or what may happen next (see 2020)

#2 Presuming to know the future

- ◇ **When you presume: James 4:14-16**
 - #2 You fail to comprehend the uncertainty of life **Job 14:1-2; Psalm 39:5; Eccl 2:22-23**
 - Life throws a lot of curves that we may never understand.
 - Someone once said, “When I was young, I was poor; when old, I became rich; but in each condition I found disappointment. When I had the faculties of enjoyment, I had not the means; when the means came, the faculties were gone.”

#2 Presuming to know the future

- ◆ **When you presume:**

- #3 You fail to comprehend the brevity of life.

- James 4:14.. “what is your life?” (repeated 18 times in scripture)

- **1 Chron 29:15; Job 7:7, 9; 8:9; Ps 39:4-5; 103:15-16**

#3 Postponing what should be done today.

- ◇ James 4:17 or procrastinating
- ◇ Prov 3:27-28; 2 Cor 6:2; Luke 12:47-48
- ◇ The time that God has given us is NOW – not tomorrow or next year. Today and NOW are the only cash we have to spend. Do not plan to do tomorrow what you know you ought to do today – you may not have a 2nd chance.
- ◇ Knowledge and responsibility go hand in hand. If you know what to do (NOW), then do it – otherwise that is SIN. You don't own tomorrow.

What makes us do these things?

- ◇ **PRIDE:**
- ◇ **Pride of power** – you believe that your power itself gives you the right to do anything with your power (and it gets into your head) – *I can whatever I want.*
- ◇ **Pride of knowledge** – you believe you have the whole truth and nothing but the truth in your head and anything that contradicts you is a lie.
- ◇ **Pride of virtue** – you believe that you are God's model of virtue, and that anybody whose way of life does not match yours is a probably a sinner or not there yet... Jer 9:23-24

Finally

- ◇ James 4:15
- ◇ No matter what you do... remember to say DV (Deo Volente) or “if the Lord wills or God willing.”
- ◇ 2 Sam 15:25-26; Prov 19:21
- ◇ Lam 3:37 “Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it?”
- ◇ Acts 18:21; Rom 1:10; I Cor 4:19; 16:7; Phil 2:24; Heb 6:3

Summary

- ◆ People wish they could know what the future holds!
But **God has not allowed us a clear view**... “its amazing how God will not allow man to have the knowledge of things to come, for if he had vision of his prosperity, he would be careless; and understanding his adversity, he would be senseless.”

▫ St Augustine