

Trusting in God's Will in the Trials

James 4:11-17

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, He who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

1. Do not attack others.

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother.
(4:11)

“To speak evil” - malicious intent; careless; critical words without clear evidence; following the devil's strategy – “a slanderer”

But if you bite and devour
one another... Gal. 5:15

“to slander” – a false report maliciously uttered and
tending to injure the reputation of another by lessening
him in the esteem of his fellow citizens.

1828 Webster Dictionary

To admonish a brother can be good -

. Share God’s word that admonishes us – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

. Admonish with tears – Acts 20:31

. Admonish with encouragement –

1 Thess. 5:14

. Admonish with gentleness –

2 Tim. 2:25

. Admonish with humility –

Matt. 7:1-5

Path of church discipline

. Go to the person in private –

Matt. 18:15

. Take one or two with you –

Matt. 18:16

. Tell the church – Matt. 18:17

... speaks evil against the law and judges the law

But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

The judgment you are making is not based in God's Word but –

- your opinion
- your perspective
- your values

Satan's sin

"I will be like God!"

Isa. 14:13-14

There is only one lawgiver and judge, He who is able to save and destroy. James 4:12

Only God is both Lawgiver and Judge

For the Lord is our Judge; the Lord is our Lawgiver. The Lord is our King – He will save us. Isa. 33:22

But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Jesus knows every heart, every thought of man

Jn. 2:25; 1 Sam. 16:7; Prov. 15:11

2. Do not make assumptions concerning the future

Come now, you who say...

James 4:13

Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit. (3)

... yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. (14)

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day will bring.

Prov. 27:1

Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.

Luke 12:19

But God said to him, "Fool!

This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" (20)

Someday I'll...

- Serve Jesus

- Sacrificially give to the Lord

- Go on a mission trip
- Take time with my family

3. Do not put your trust in your own ability

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. James 4:14

Life is temporary and fragile

- My days are like an evening shadow.

I wither away like grass. Ps. 102:11

- My life is a breath. Job 7:7

- Like a flower of the field – the wind passes over it and it is gone.

Ps. 103:15-16

Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that. (15)

If the Lord wills...

“I will return to you, if God wills.”

Acts 18:21

“I will come to you, soon, if the Lord wills...” 1 Cor. 4:19

“I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord

permits.” 1 Cor. 16:7

“I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.”

Phil. 2:24

God’s will is everything!

“I delight to do your will, O my God.”

Ps. 40:8

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.” Psalm

143:10

“If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God...” Jn. 7:17

“Whoever does the will of God abides forever.” 1 Jn. 2:17

Trust in the Lord and do good...

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him and He will act.

Ps. 37:3-5

As it is, you boast in your arrogance.

All such boasting is evil. (16)

... the pride of life.

1 Jn. 2:16

Practical steps in finding God’s will

1. Look – What does God’s Word say?

2. Learn - What are the circumstances saying?
3. Listen up – What do wise counselors say?
4. Lean in – What is the Holy Spirit saying?

Have Thine own way, Lord
Have Thine own way
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting
Yielded and still.

4. Always do the right thing.

So whoever knows the right thing to do
James 4:17

... and fails to do it...
James 4:17

... for him it is sin.
James 4:17