



Pastor Brandon Penn (Visiting) · BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS
January 25, 2026

JAMES 4:3-17; 5:12^{NIV}

4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

4:7-8 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

4:13-17 Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city...carry on business and make money.'

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'

As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

5:12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No,' no. Otherwise you will be condemned.

1. DRAW NEAR TO GOD IN YOUR _____ (v 3)

What connection do our motives have with our prayer life?

Can you personally play a role in resisting spiritual warfare this week? How?

Eph 6:11

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

2. DRAW NEAR TO GOD IN YOUR _____ (v 13-17)

- *Intentional Planning* = when we incorporate the Lord in the decisions we make about our future.
- *Independent Planning* = when we approach future planning without seeking Christ's direction.

Why does independent planning come so easily in your life?

3. DRAW NEAR TO GOD IN YOUR _____ (v 12)

- Lies slow down growth. And lies slow down the ministry God is performing through our life.
- Cognitive Distortions
 - Should Statements
 - Fortune-Telling
 - Labeling

Have you been letting your 'preparing for tomorrow', keep you from obeying God today? ...What's your next step to draw near to God this week?