

Heeding the Warning

- **Day One. Read James 4:13-17**
I want it! • Developing submission

Think about plans that you have made in the past. How many of them came about? How many of them did not? How much was God involved in your planning? Did you think about what he wanted before planning? Did you submit your plans to him after making them? What about your current plans?

Pray. Submit your current plans to God's will. Ask him to show you if and how any of your plans should change.

- **Day Two. Read James 5:1-6**
I want it all! • Developing generosity

How important is money to you? How are you at saving? Why do you save? How would you rate yourself on a generosity scale from 1 low (stingy) to 5 high (generous)? What is one way you could practice generosity this week? How many of the "Heavenly Investment Funds" do you have money in?

Pray. Ask God to make you more sensitive to the need around you and to show you specific ways to practice generosity.

- **Day Three. Read James 5:7-11**
I want it now! • Developing patience

How good are you at waiting, especially with respect to purchasing things you want? Try intentionally delaying a purchase of something you want this week, just to develop the quality of patience. What did you learn?

Pray. Ask God to help show you a specific area where he wants you to trust him to provide for you instead of you "making it happen."

Warning to the Wealthy

Being the Church #6 • James 4:13-5:12

The Temptations of Wealth

1. *I want it.*

James 4:13-17 (NIV) ¹³ Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Proverbs 6:6 (NIV) ⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) ⁹ In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

Proverbs 19:21 (NLB) ²¹ We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

Proverbs 21:30 (NIV) ³⁰ There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD. Luke 22:42

2. *I want it all.*

James 5:1-6 (NIV) ¹ Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. ² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴ Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵ You

have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

θησαυρίζω | thēsaurizō | Lay up, store up, treasure

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV) ¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Warren’s Heavenly Investment Funds: Growth (Proverbs 10:16); Mutual (Romans 12:13); Service (Proverbs 11:24); Global (Luke 16:9); Treasury (Proverbs 3:9)

Deuteronomy 24:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns. ¹⁵ Pay him his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and is counting on it. Otherwise he may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

Jeremiah 22:13 (NIV) ¹³ Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his countrymen work for nothing, not paying them for their labor.

1Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV) ¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

3. I want it now.

James 5:7-11 (NIV) ⁷ Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. ⁹ Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. ed among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

στενάζω | stenazō | to groan or sigh

Romans 8:23 (NIV) ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

μακροθυμέω | makrothymeō | patient
μακρός | makros | long AND θυμός | thymos | heat

ὑπομένω | hypomenō | persevere
ὑπο | hypo | under AND μένω | menō | arrange

Job 1:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” Job 42:10

4. I want it no matter what.

James 5:12 (NIV) ¹² Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned.

Matthew 5:34-37 (NIV) ³⁴ But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. Proverbs 22:1

Attitude	Don’t be...	Be...
I want it	Presumptuous	Submissive
I want it all	Self-indulgent	Generous
I want it now	Testy	Patient
I want it no matter what	Deceptive	Honest