



# God's Word For Today

Saturday, April 13, 2013

## Obedience

James 4:17

James 4:13-17 KJV Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: (14) Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. (15) For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. (16) But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. (17) **Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.**

I must tell you that, when I first heard the Spirit say "James 4:17", and then when I went to read this verse; The verse seemed very clear as to what it was saying. It said to know what to do and then not do it, was sin. But, my training was to all ways look at the context of the Scripture to determine the primary meaning of the Scripture. When I did this, James 4:13-17, was the main area of thought, and the main thought was that we should be lead by the Holy Spirit in all areas of our lives, and to not do this is called SIN.

If you know just a little about the Word of God, then maybe some good examples of self will come to mind. One that that came to me is one that appears in Ruth 1:1 KJV **Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.** Later on, in this woman's life, she would say: Ruth 1:20-21 KJV **And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. (21) I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?**

This is one good example of someone's self will getting them into trouble with the Lord. Probably, it seemed like a good idea to Naomi to go to Moab (**one of the definitions of Moab is "Pride"**), maybe it might have even had been her husband's idea, but it was evidently an idea borne out of their self-will (or flesh). Notice she testified, that she left full, but came back empty. The fact is, that **God wants to bless His children**, but we must follow the Holy Spirit, not our own wills. 3 John 1:2-3 KJV **Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. (3) For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.**

Still, the Scripture is even broader here then what we had noticed so far. This goes way beyond following the Holy Spirit minute by minute. It is also evident that those things that we have learned from God in the past, well, they are still just as relevant for today as for back then. Notice in — John 14:26 KJV **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.** It is plain as the nose on your face, that the Holy Spirit is to lead us in every step of the way and to remind us of the will of God that is in our past.

I have known some in the past that would say, well "all we can do now is pray". **But**, that just might have been what we should have done first!

**Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.**