



It will take a determined faith to complete our God-assignment, and God is calling us and awakening us to a new response so we might flourish in the days ahead. Expressions of evil are more prominent, brazen, and emboldened than we have experienced in our lifetimes, and a Christian worldview is no longer celebrated in the public square. It is going to take a determined faith to become effective, and we are going to examine a process of living a more radical life of faith ...

I. COUNSEL FROM JAMES

James 1:5–8 ⁵ *If any of you lacks wisdom, **he should ask God**, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.* ⁶ *But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.* ⁷ **That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;** ⁸ *he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

James 1:12 *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, **he will receive the crown of life** that God has promised to those who love him.*

James 2:5 *Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?*

1. What are the dangers in believers mingling worldly wisdom with God’s wisdom, especially when dealing with trials?
2. What aspects of the world’s wisdom do you find your own heart tempted to pursue?
3. In what areas of your life do you struggle with double-mindedness, wavering between your own agenda and God’s agenda?

II. COACHING FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL

1 Timothy 6:17–21 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. ²⁰ **Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care.** Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ²¹ which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.

2 Timothy 4:3–18 ³ *For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.* ⁴ *They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.* ⁵ **But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.**

⁶ *For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.* ⁷ *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* ⁸ **Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,** which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and **not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.**

⁹ **Do your best to come to me quickly,** ¹⁰ for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹² I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵ You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

4. How can you intentionally practice gratitude for the things the Lord has blessed with you with?
5. What does it mean to wear a “crown of righteousness?”

III. JESUS' WARNING

Luke 12:15-21 ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’” ¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’” ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ ²⁰ **“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’”** ²¹ “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

6. What does it mean to be rich toward God? What makes someone a fool by God's standard?
7. In what ways can you intentionally build and invest in the Kingdom of God today?

PRAYER

Family Prayer Guide, Week Three: DAY 2

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your true Church and for the opportunity to be a part of the family of God. Let my life reflect Your love for me, and help me be an encouragement to those around me as we follow You. In Jesus' name, amen.