

Thursday, November 19, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into
such and such a town and spend a year there and trade
and make a profit' – yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.
What is your life?
For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."**

James 4: 13-14

I'm sure we can all relate to this passage a little more these days than we might have a year ago, unless, of course, you have had other experiences that have caused you to realize how uncertain and fragile this life is. It's very easy to be lulled into the false sense of thinking that life will always continue as is. (I guess that can work the other way as well. We should not think that life will always be as it is right now either – in a state of a pandemic.)

James has a way of getting right to the heart of the matter in his Epistle. This passage is no exception. He's telling us to have an adult view of life. Children, I think, tend to be unaware of the mutability of life. It's when we begin to mature that we start to expect things to change. God doesn't want us to be surprised when things do change. In fact, according to the reading above, God doesn't want us to forget that we are mortal. Nothing like a pandemic to remind us of that fact.

This doesn't mean that we should live our lives in a state of depression. It simply means that we need to learn to put things in perspective and NOT to lose our sense of peace when things do change, or when we realize that tomorrow is not a given. People with God-given wisdom recognize this.

I know I have been guilty of taking so many things in life for granted. But I never realized that I was taking it for granted that I could walk around a grocery store with my face uncovered. If there is one thing we might learn from this pandemic, perhaps it can be this: Don't take anything for granted, not even the air you breathe! Even the air we breathe is a gift from God. I took it for granted all my life. Now there is a part of me that sees the air that I breathe as a potential threat to my health, or even my life.

Not only are our lives "a mist that appear for a little while then vanish," but so might be any other reality of life as well. God is the Provider of every gift. May we never take any of His gifts for granted.

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim