



**FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS**

# **POWER CHURCH**

## **MESSAGE: 15 FEB 2026**

Video:

[https://www.youtube.com/shorts/y7cnUEtS\\_m8](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/y7cnUEtS_m8)

**Happy Lord's Day  
and welcome to Power Church!**

**Today is Sunday, February 15, in the year of our Lord 2026.**

**Before we open with prayer,  
I want to invite those watching us on YouTube to join the  
Strong Life 610 Ministry.**

**Joining is FREE, and we NEVER ask for donations.**

**As a Strong Life 610 Team Member,  
you will receive our DAILY BREAD devotions,  
weekly POWER CHURCH messages,  
and our monthly STRONG LIFE newsletter**

To join, simply email us at:

[\*\*stronglife610inc@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:stronglife610inc@gmail.com)

Thanks so much, and we hope and pray to hear from you

Let us pray:

*Father,*

*Thank You for Your Word  
Thank You for its instruction  
Thank You for its truth  
And thank You for its promise*

*Open our eyes that we may see wonder of Your Word*

*Help us, Lord, to honor and revere Your Word  
ALWAYS*

*In Jesus' Name, Amen*



**GOD'S WORD**

**Psalm 119:18**

***Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.***

**Like many of you, Caryn and I have been watching the Winter Olympics. Although we're not winter sports enthusiasts, we've been blown away by the skill, strength, and athletic prowess the athletes are displaying day after day.**



**The same holds true for us as powerlifters. We train consistently and with discipline, and we are respectful of those who excel on the competitive platform.**



**How about God's Word? Do we hold as great a reverence for the Word and the name of God as we do for our brothers and sisters in the gym? While it is perfectly fine to respect and appreciate the skill we're witnessing in the Winter Olympics, at the gym, or anything else the world has to offer, it is critical that we keep things in perspective.**

We must not treat God's Word carelessly, bending it, softening it, or compromising it to fit our needs. We must follow it, never taking it lightly or for granted. We must treasure it. We must revere it.

God's Word is far greater than anything the world has to offer, but it only gives life to us when we treasure it.



We must not treat the Word carelessly, bending it, softening it, or compromising it to fit our needs. We must follow it, never taking it lightly or for granted. We must treasure it. We must revere it.

God's Word is a treasure, far greater than anything the world has to offer, but it only gives life to us when we treasure it.



Thank you so much for joining us for today's "Power Church" message.

Until next Sunday: ***"Be strong in the Lord, and the power of His might."***



**FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS**

# **DAILY BREAD**

**Monday, February 16**

**James 4:7-10**

***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.***



***Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts,  
you double-minded.  
Grieve, mourn and wail.  
Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.  
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.***

In last week's devotionals, James spelled out how believers had been living lives of worldly self-reliance, as many of us today do at times. God sees this as adultery, cheating on Him with the world.

Today's verses begin to answer how we should respond when we realize we're on the world's path again: submit to God again:

***Submit yourselves, then, to God.  
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

We must surrender our battles to achieve our own desires and turn to serve others instead.

We must also resist the devil. Satan has been instrumental in engineering this system of self-service since the beginning of human history, but if we quit the path of the world and resist the devil, he will run away from us.

In verse 8, James calls us to come near, or move closer, to God. This comes with an additional promise that God will respond by moving closer to us:

***Come near to God and He will come near to you.***



That's an incredible act of mercy on God's part. The God of the universe owes us nothing, including His closeness. We are blessed to serve our God!

Next, James calls us to clean our hands, to stop trying to serve both self and God:

***Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts,  
you double-minded.***

Next, James calls us to engage in an emotional response to our sinfulness:

***Grieve, mourn and wail.  
Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.***

As true believers, we ought to feel shame and sadness over our sins. Tears are an appropriate and necessary response if our repentance is genuine. This season of grief, however, is not meant to be a lifestyle or a pattern.

Finally, James teaches that God wants us to quit the world's way of pursuing things. God wants us to trust Him to exalt us when the time is right without trying to get that glory for ourselves:

***Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.***



**This requires real humility. We agree not to make our daily lives about ourselves, and our God promises to make it about us when and how He sees fit.**

**Remember, Jesus “made Himself nothing,” and became a servant, even to death. Then, when the time was right, the Father exalted Jesus to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above all names. Records and titles may be one thing, but they in no way compare to being exalted by God.**

***Humility today, God’s glory forever!***

***In Christ, Spero***



*For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him  
should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.*

**Thanks to [www.bibleref.com](http://www.bibleref.com) for providing biblical material on our Daily Bread Scripture.**



**FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS**

# **DAILY BREAD**

**Tuesday, February 17**

**James 4:11-12**

***Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another.  
Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks  
against the law and judges it.***



***When you judge the law, you are not keeping it,  
but sitting in judgment on it.  
There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,  
the one who is able to save and destroy.  
But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?***

So far in chapter 4, James has described how believers were being unfaithful to God by following the world's path of self-reliance and self-glorification. He has also described how followers of Christ can repent from this sinful approach to life and begin to trust God, moving closer to Him once again.

Now James urges us not to turn on each other in slander or in judgement of each other. Judging another person is a way of putting ourselves above God's Law. We must simply be "doers of the Word," walking in humility with God and each other:

***Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it.***



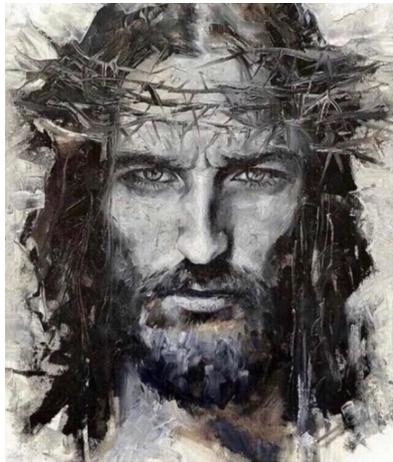
Unfortunately, we are often more eager to judge others than to simply struggle doing right ourselves. James insists that to speak against and judge our neighbors is to make ourselves judges of God's Law. It's not our job:

***When you judge the law, you are not keeping it,  
but sitting in judgment on it.  
There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,  
the one who is able to save and destroy.  
But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?***



**James makes it clear that God is the only Lawgiver and the only Judge. He is the only one able to save and destroy. As people dependent on God's grace, we should not presume to pronounce any direct verdict against others based on our own judgment. What arrogance that would be! We must humbly serve our Lord and each other – period.**

***In Christ, Spero***



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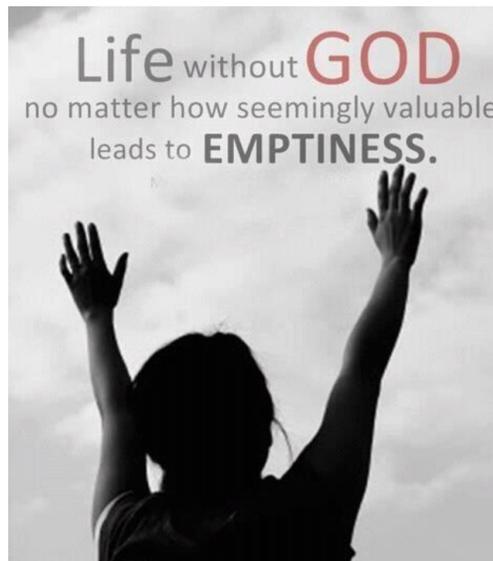
**FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS**

# **DAILY BREAD**

**Wednesday, February 18**

**James 4:13-14**

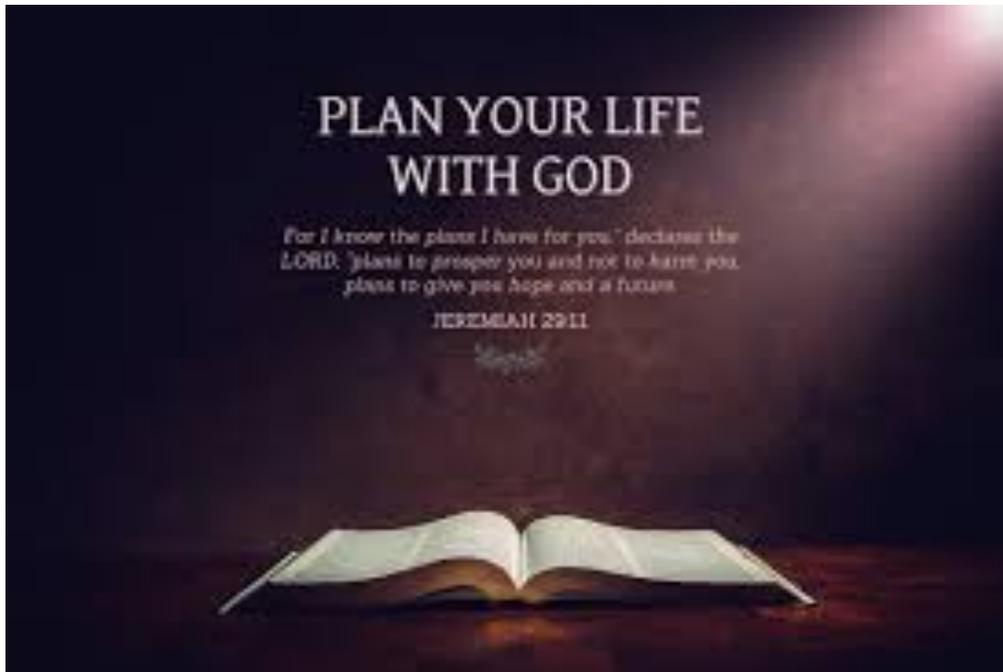
***Now listen, you who say,  
“Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there,  
carry on business and make money.”***



***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.***

Yesterday, James warned about arrogantly judging our neighbors for their sinfulness. In today's verses from James 4:13-14, he begins a section about the arrogance of imagining that we have total control over the events of our own lives:

***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."***



Verse 13 sets up this point with a generic business plan. The problem here is not in making the plan – James doesn't go on to say that planning is sinful, or foolish. The problem is having an attitude of self-reliance. Making a statement out of confidence in one's own ability without humility is unwise.

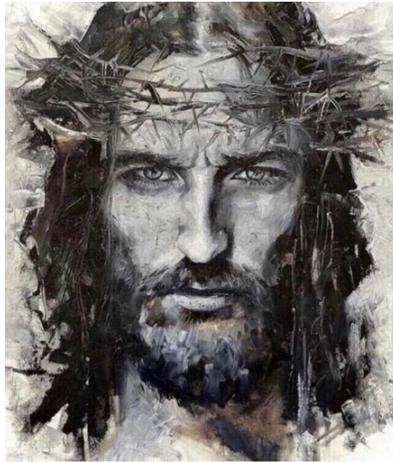
In verse 14, James makes it clear that we cannot predict or control the future. We truly have no idea what will happen tomorrow:

***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.***

In addition, our lives are temporary and fragile. We are a midst that is here for a moment and then gone.

It is important to note that James is not being a pessimistic downer, nor is he denying the value of sound planning or judgment. As tomorrow's verse will show, James is condemning these kinds of remarks in a mindset devoid of God's influence. James wants us to carry with us an awareness that our every moment, our every movement, is dependent on God's grace, mercy, and will.

***In Christ, Spero***



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**FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS**

# **DAILY BREAD**

**Thursday, February 19**

**James 4:15-17**

*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.*

*If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it,  
it is sin for them.*

Through most of chapter 4, James has explained how arrogant self-reliance is behind much of the evil in the world. When we don't rely on God for our needs, we tend towards envy, competition, and abuse of others. In today's verses from James 4:15-17, James shows how we should demonstrate our awareness of our dependence on God:

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



This a deeper issue than simply tacking the words *"if the Lord wills"* onto any statement of plans for the future. The right approach includes weighing in God's will *before we make the plans*, then relying on Him to be in control of the results. Simply stated, God wants us to commit ourselves first and above all to accomplishing His will, not our own.

In verse 16, James is condemning the attitude which ignores God and focuses on selfish ambition. This is an attitude that leads us to abuse others:

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

God wants us to make plans with the intent of obeying His will first. Then, we must speak of our plans with the awareness that God may well interfere with them if they are outside of His will. He wants us to trust Him, to live every moment in dependence on Him.

James concludes his thought in verse 17 with a profound and challenging statement:

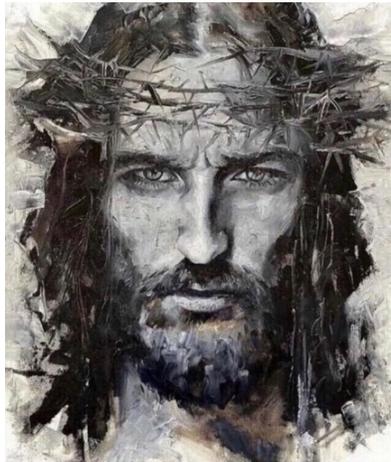
***If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it,  
it is sin for them.***



James has offered several arguments about what it means for a Christian to live out our faith in God. For believers, it means acting according to what we claim to believe. To continue down a path of worldliness and self-reliance instead of trusting God in our everyday choices is sin.

***We know what we should do,  
so we have no excuse not to do it.***

***In Christ, Spero***



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that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him  
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**FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS**

# **DAILY BREAD**

**Friday, February 20**

**James 5:1-3**

***Now listen, you rich people,  
weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.***



***Your wealth has rotted,  
and moths have eaten your clothes.***

***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.***

Today we will begin studying the final chapter of the Book of James. James begins chapter 5 by harshly condemning the wealthy by warning them of misery headed their way:

***Now listen, you rich people,  
weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.***



This raises a reasonable question: Is every wealthy person unrighteous and evil? The answer is no, because that's not the teaching of this passage, nor the rest of Scripture. The condemnation here is not for wealth, itself, but for those whose wealth causes them to fall into the sins James in describe in upcoming verses. The temptation to trust wealth instead of God is a trap, and most of us are vulnerable to it.

In verse 2, James continues his condemnation of the group of rich people that had been oppressing his readers, a reality we still witness today:

***Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.***

Here, he says their wealth is as good as rotted away and their expensive garments are as good as moth-eaten rags. Because this group has allowed their wealth to control them and warp their minds, what will they have left when their wealth is gone? Given the brevity and unpredictable nature of life, their wealth and the things they purchased with it are already as good as gone.

James' attention is on the day of God's judgment against these wealthy oppressors. The misuse of their gold and silver will testify against them:

***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.***

Instead of using their stockpiles of precious metals to help the poor, they just hoarded the money until it began to waste away. When God rules against them, their own flesh will be eaten away by the fire in the same way the corrosion has eaten away their gold and silver.

This is a harsh and cutting pronouncement. James offers no grace from God for these unrepentant unbelievers. In doing so, James echoes Jesus' own teaching from Matthew 6:19-21:

***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,  
where moths and vermin destroy,  
and where thieves break in and steal.  
But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,  
where moths and vermin do not destroy,  
and where thieves do not break in and steal.  
For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.”***

***In Christ, Spero***



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**FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS**

# **DAILY BREAD**

**Saturday, February 21**

**James 5:4-6**

***Look!***

***The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you.***

***The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.***



***You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence.  
You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.***

***You have condemned and murdered the innocent one,  
who was not opposing you.***

James continues his criticism of wealthy landowners who were oppressing the poor, charging them in today's verses (James 5:4-6) not just with neglect and selfishness, but with outright fraud:

***The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you.***

***The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.***



These wealthy businessmen cheated their employees, and the latter cried out to the Lord for relief. James is warning these landowners that God's judgment is coming upon them for abusing their workers.

James continues his condemnation in verse 5, using sharp, cutting imagery to drive home the reality of the coming judgment:

***You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence.  
You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.***

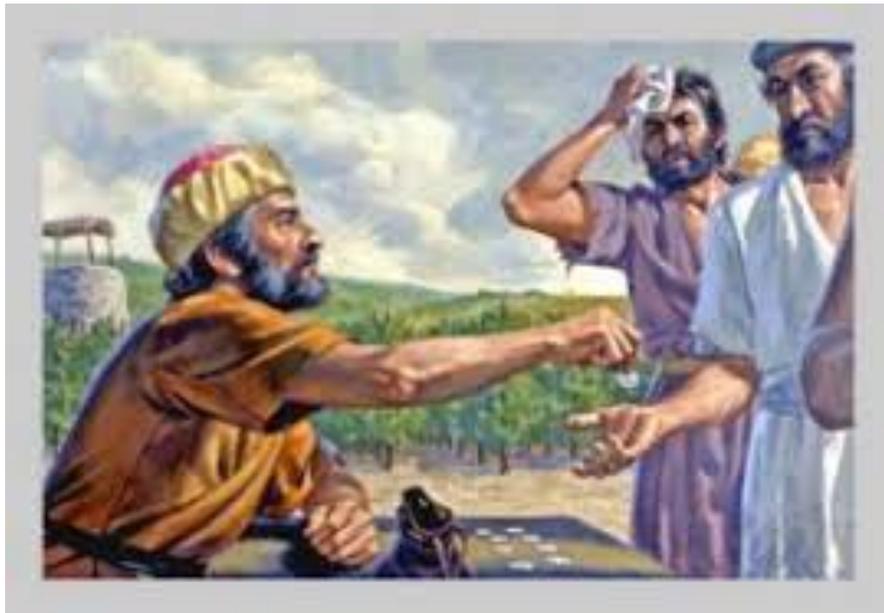


These wealthy businessmen have not only provided for themselves the easiest, softest lives possible, but they have done so while ignoring the plight of others and abusing them to become even richer.

James' words support the idea that he is not condemning wealth or all rich people. Rather, he is criticizing the sinful temptations that come with wealth: selfishness and greed.

In today's closing verse, James offers his final charge against wealthy oppressors – murder:

***You have condemned and murdered the innocent one,  
who was not opposing you.***



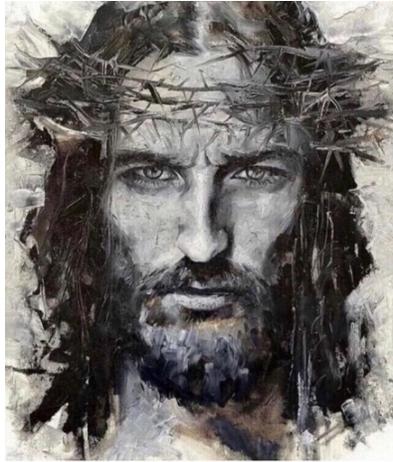
Not only were they guilty of hoarding wealth while others suffered in poverty, of cheating their workers out of earned wages, and of living in self-indulgent luxury, they had literally caused an innocent, or righteous, man to die.

Wealthy landowners had great power in the court systems of the day, just as we are witnessing today with wealthy opponents of President Trump and the out-of-control judges that support their efforts. In James' era, a poor man who was sued would usually lose what little he had, even to the point of being unjustly executed or left to die of starvation.

What should we as Christ followers take away from this? It's simple – beware of the trap of desiring to become rich and of trusting in riches once you possess them. That's why we pray:

*Give us this day our daily bread ...*

*In Christ, Spero*



*For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him  
should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.*

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