

April 30, 2020 ~Praying Scripture for Perfectly Timed Planning~

“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. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’” James 4:13-15

Almighty and Sovereign God, you are the God of all creation. From the beginning, all this world and all who once lived or still live in this world were and are part of your perfect planning. Your plans for the world and your people are dependable because you are dependable. They are good plans for how to live or do this or that because you are good. We wait now in our sheltering and early phases of reopening with our minds already busy planning for tomorrow. Please use your Holy Spirit to help us discern the plans you have for us: plans to protect us, to provide for us, and to do the work you’ve planned for us to do. Holy Spirit, guide our human spirits to be patient and follow God’s timing over our own.

Father, help us be careful making our plans for the tomorrows that are coming. Remind us of times we’ve wandered away from you, foolishly trusting the world’s plans for us. The promises of the world are not from you. When plans entice us and seem to be good for us, please intervene. When we are about to choose the world, please use your Spirit in us to convict our human spirit with the truth about deceptions the world uses to control our minds and our actions. Prompt us to remember when something seems too good to be true, it probably isn’t good or true. Stop us when something doesn’t seem right to us because it probably isn’t right. The wrong plans of the world are temporary because people who make those plans are mortal. Because you are eternal, your purposes and plans for us are eternal. Thank you, God, for always wanting what is right for us, yesterday, today, tomorrow, and forever. Thank you for unexpected affirmations of what work you have for us to do right now. What blessings are right directions revealed in our quiet time, in circumstances, and in the words and deeds of people you’ve chosen to place in our lives!

We read your true and holy Word revealed in James and find direction for our responses to both remaining sheltered now and in the reopening phases of this coronavirus pandemic. Help us wait on you and your direction. Guard us from obsessing and spending all our time making our plans to do things for all the tomorrows in front of us. When we begin to plan, you already know what we are thinking. We are thankful for your omniscience. When we hold up the plans we’re beginning to make in our thoughts and prayers, we are confident your Holy Spirit will help us move in the direction you would have us move to do the work you have planned. You will not take us anyplace where we might be harmed. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for your love that perfectly helps us plan our lives.

Remind us, God, that we are not the community planners for our adult children, our church family, our friends, and our neighbors. The plans others will be making are not for us to make or alter, and we pray that you would silence our comments and criticisms. We ask that those we know will find times and places to ask for and receive your best direction for their own plans for tomorrow. Use that undeniable feeling that affirms or encourages changing direction to guide us and those we know, Holy Spirit.

Sovereign God, we pray in the name of Jesus, our Precious Lord and Savior, for right thinking, obedient responses, eyes that see the work you have for us to do, and discernment when the world inevitably tries to take away the control of beginning to plan for our lives tomorrow. That authority and our prayers belong only to you, Heavenly Father. Amen.

