

James 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Analysis

For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills (ean ho Kyrios thelē, ἐὰν ὁ Κύριος θέλῃ), we will live and do this or that." Incorporating "Lord willing" is not cliché but a heart posture acknowledging providence.

Reformed believers often use DV (Deo volente) as expression of James 4:15, submitting plans to God's sovereign will.

Historical Context

Jewish tradition used phrases like "If God wills"; James renews the habit for Christian merchants. The early church embraced this language to express dependence amid uncertainty.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Do your plans reflect dependence on God's will?

2. How can you practice 'Lord willing' without superstition?
3. What plans need to be resubmitted to God's authority?

Interlinear Text

ἀντὶ	τοῦ	λέγειν	ὑμᾶς	Ἐὰν	ό	κύριος	θελήσῃ	καὶ
For that	G3588	ought to say	ye	If	G3588	the Lord	will	and
G473		G3004	G5209	G1437		G2962	G2309	G2532
ζήσωμεν	καὶ	ποιήσωμεν	τοῦτο	ἢ	ἐκεῖνο			
we shall live	and	do	this	or	that			
G2198	G2532	G4160	G5124	G2228	G1565			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 19:21 (References Lord): There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Hebrews 6:3 (Parallel theme): And this will we do, if God permit.

Lamentations 3:37 (References Lord): Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

Acts 18:21 (Parallel theme): But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

Romans 1:10 (Parallel theme): Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

1 Corinthians 16:7 (References Lord): For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit.

Romans 15:32 (Parallel theme): That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

1 Corinthians 4:19 (References Lord): But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

