November 8, 2026
Sea Change Church
Storm Proof: A Study in James
S2E5: Planning in Pencil
Pastor Harry Wilson

James 4:13-17

13 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”— 14 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. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this
or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever
knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Proverbs 16:9 The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

- The presumption of control is a facade that makes a fool out of all who partake.

- Too often we profess that God is sovereign, but plan as though we are.

> “Prayer is our humble answer to the inconceivable surprise of living” - Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

- Christian maturity is marked by a growing contentment with mystery.

- Confidence in the future isn't rooted in knowing God's plans, but in knowing God's character.

> “The humans live in time but our Enemy destines them to eternity. He therefore, I believe, wants them to attend chiefly to two things, to eternity itself, and to that point of time which they call the Present. . . Our business is to get them away from the eternal, and from the Present.” - C.S. Lewis *The Screwtape Letters*

Discussion Questions

1. Was there anything in the worship or message that stood out to you on Sunday? Did you sense the Holy Spirit speaking to you in any way?

2. How do you typically respond to uncertainty about the future? Do you tend toward anxiety, an increased desire for control, or a greater dependence on God?
3. How might a deeper understanding of God's character change the way we approach an uncertain future?
4. Is there an area of your life where you've become more dependent on the success of your plans than on the sovereignty of God? What might surrender look like in that area?
5. Are there any lingering questions from the sermon or the passage that would be helpful to discuss together?