

HOW TO DEVELOP FAITH

Face Your Future

August 16, 2009

FBC Port A

James 4:14 NIV *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.*

HOW TO FACE YOUR FUTURE

James 4:13-17

Everyone is interested in the future. James warns us about common mistakes we make regarding the future.

3 COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

I. MISTAKE #1: Planning Without God

James 4:13 NIV *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."*

THE SOLUTION: Plan WITH God

James 4:15 NIV *Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*

Pro 16:1 NIV *To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue.*

Pro 16:9 NIV *In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.*

II. MISTAKE #2: Presuming about Tomorrow

James 4:14,16 NIV *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...As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.*

Ps. 102:3, 11; Job 4:7,9; Ps. 103:15

Psa 39:4-6 NIV *"Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath. Selah. Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro: He bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it.*

Isa 56:12 NIV *"Come," each one cries, "let me get wine! Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better."*

Pro 27:1 NIV *Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.*

THE SOLUTION: Live IN today

Mat 6:34 NIV *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

III. MISTAKE #3: Putting Off Doing Good

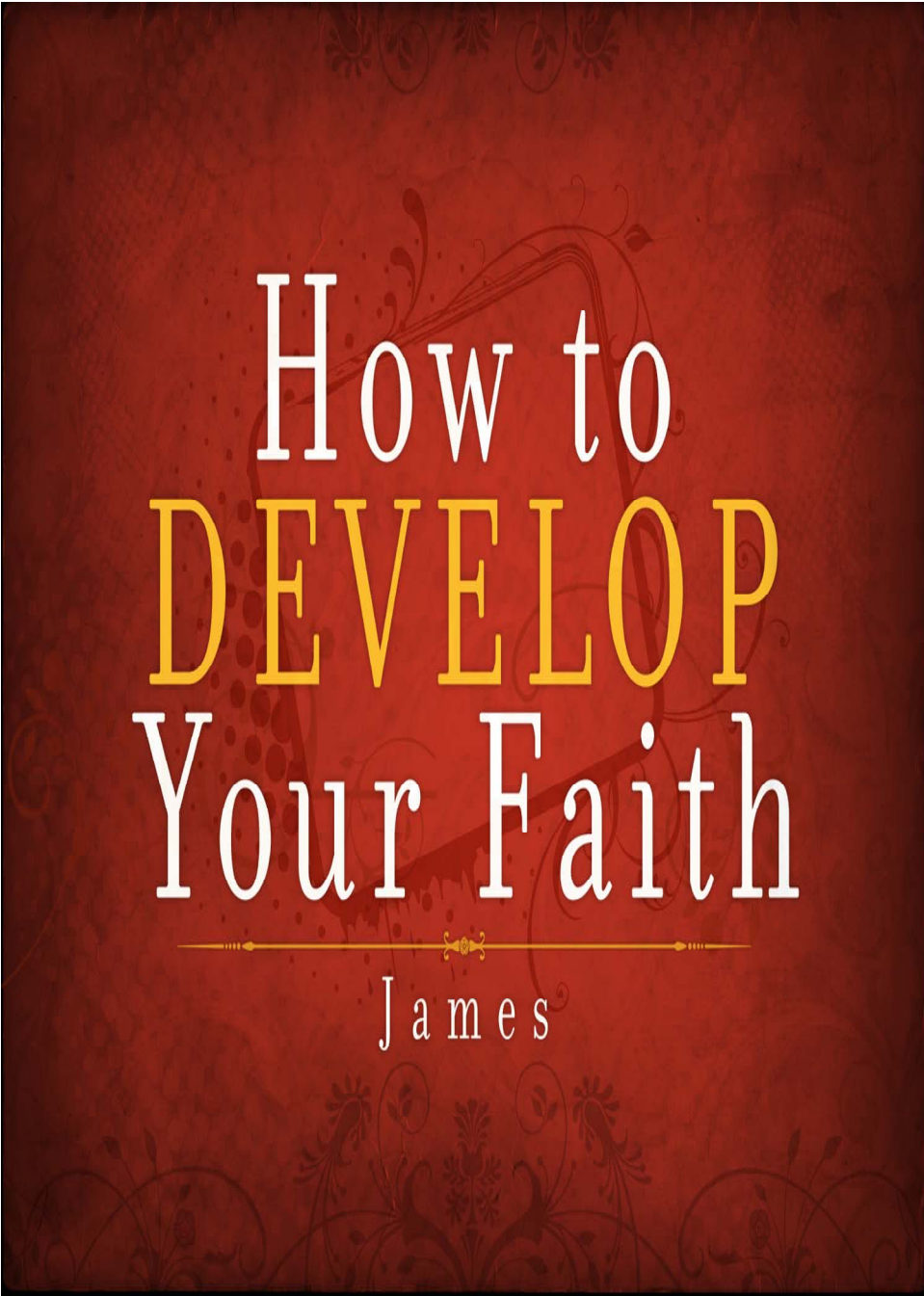
James 4:17 NIV *Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*

THE SOLUTION: DO IT NOW

Pro 3:27-28 NIV *Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow" when you now have it with you.*

Luke 12:16-20 -- A foolish man

2Cor 6:2 NIV *For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.*



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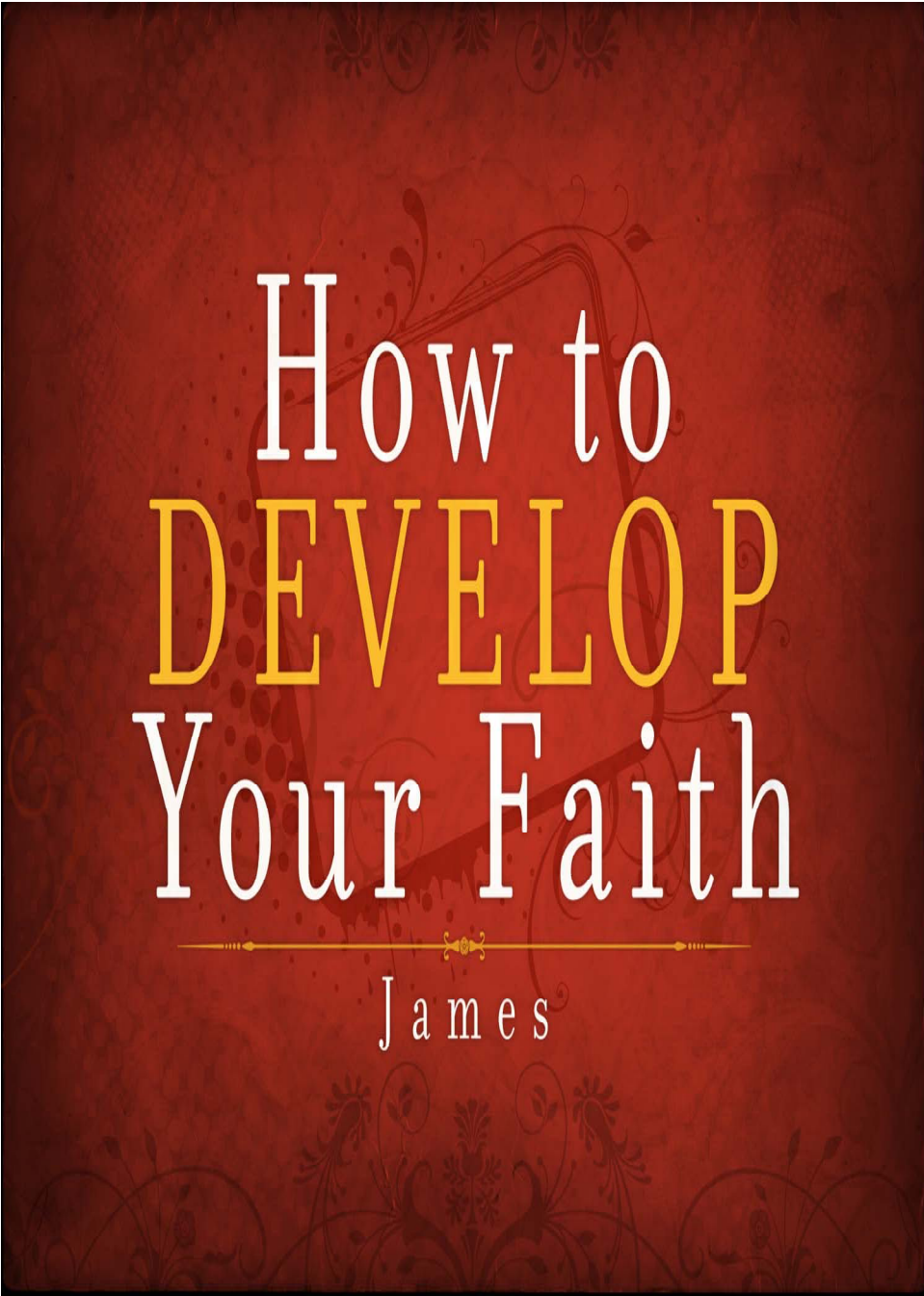
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James

1. I can make reference to it. That's what he's saying here. I admit that God has a will and I accept it, acknowledge it, make reference to it.
2. I can show deference to it. I really want God's will and I accept it into my life.
3. I can show preference for it. More than anything else I want God's will in my life. What God wants -- that's my plan. I deeply desire it.

Procrastination is my sin,
It only caused me sorrow
I know I ought to change my ways,
In fact I will -- tomorrow.