

Rooted

Biblical Business Academy's Flagship Course

E: Expectant and NOT entitled

Foundational Verse: James 4:13-17 – “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” – 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. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”

Hebrews 4:16 – “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

These verses unpack the BALANCE we need to take on as Christian business owners which BEGINS with understanding who God is and who we are.

Q. Think back to the last time you encountered someone who demonstrated an attitude of ENTITLEMENT. What characteristics were displayed and was this a positive or negative experience?

Typically, entitlement can manifest itself as arrogance and a belief that you are ‘above’ somebody else... which doesn’t exactly sound like ‘loving thy neighbour’.

The James passage outlined above so beautifully explains the slippery slope which can lead us there (and how to avoid it) which we’re going to unpack here.

Ambition and goals aren’t wrong.

Jesus addresses those who are talking about the plans they have and He doesn’t TOTALLY rebuke them for having them.

Verse 15 reveals the root of their plans not coming from the right place:

“Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

I don’t believe this means that we say ‘God willing’ with every plan we make just to cover our backs, of course! But I do think that this verse suggests a PARTNERSHIP with us and God as we build our businesses and not us running ahead of Him.

Q. When it comes to the plans you make in business (investments, programs you offer, clients you take on etc.) how often do you bring them before God with a heart to discern His will in the matter?

Verse 16 goes onto say *‘As it is, you boast in your arrogance’.*

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 gives us the remedy:

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“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,^[a] not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being^[b] might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him^[c] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The importance running through both our foundational verses and this passage is that what we have (life and everything within it) is a GIFT, and therefore boasting about ‘all we’ve achieved’ and ‘what we’ve got’ isn’t actually correct.

The other side of the coin

Sadly, what can often happen is that we END here and feel more lost than when we started as though we’re not able to be CONFIDENT in our calling and offer our work to the world.

This can lead to false-humility and also an ‘orphan’, self-deprecating mentality which doesn’t serve anyone.

Q. How do you typically discern in others, and demonstrate in yourself, the difference between arrogance and confidence?

Our second foundational verse makes it clear that we are to approach God with CONFIDENCE and we see this littered throughout scripture as well...

Check out these passages which I unpack further in the training:

Matthew 15:25-28 – Woman referred to as a dog by Jesus.

Genesis 32:22-32 – Jacob wrestles with God

Both of these instances indicate a BOLD faith in receiving BLESSING from God but both instances are detached from a suggestion that these people are somewhat ‘better’ or ‘above’ than anyone else.

Q. What do YOU want to come before God with today in FAITH, expecting that He will move and trusting that if He doesn’t, it will be for your good?