

**Focus**  
**James 4:14-16**

**Blurred vision**

The craziness of life!

- Busyness that depletes us.
- Responsibilities that overwhelm us.
- Relationships that confuse us.
- Fears that immobilize us.
- Lies that deceive us.

*James 4:14 "For you are like smoke that appears for a little while, then vanishes."*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of life. *James 4:14a "You don't even know what tomorrow will bring..."*

The picture of our life is a vapor, mist or smoke.  
In the midst of smoke, our \_\_\_\_\_ is hindered.

Does your inability to see the "whole picture" give you  
a sense of peace or fear?

**Focusing**

2 lifestyles: both set in the context of the uncertainty of life.

**Lifestyle # 1.** The \_\_\_\_\_-dependent life.  
v 16 - Summed up as \_\_\_\_\_, boastful arrogance.

**Lifestyle # 2.** The \_\_\_\_\_-dependent life.  
v 15 - The Lord's will first, our life and plans are an extension from that.

*The picture here is not that making plans for travel, business or profit are evil, but rather the absence of a God-centered perspective.*

*The days I feel defeated are the days when my focus shifts from God to myself, and in practical terms so does my dependence.*

**Romans 8:6**

- Mind-set of the flesh = death.
- Mind-set of the Spirit = life and \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 16:13-15** The Spirit of truth guides us into the truth, directs our focus to the Son which glorifies the Father! An incredible picture of the Trinity!

For starters, a mind-set of the Spirit focuses on:

- The Truth of God
- The Promises of God
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God

*Perhaps part of the reason for the "mist" and uncertainty of life and what tomorrow will bring is so that our dependency will remain on God - that our view of Him would be unobscured.*

*If our daily focus was on the truth, promises and character of God, many of our struggles and temptations would never even come into view.*

## Fix your eyes

**Phil 4:6,7** "Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

This response to the trials and struggles of life comes more naturally to the one whose mind is \_\_\_\_\_ on the truth, promises and character of God.

**Isaiah 26:3** "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

- Keep = to guard
- Perfect peace = rest, safety
- Mind = mental capacity including the imagination
- Stayed = \_\_\_\_\_ lean upon
- Trust = bold, confident, sure, carefree.

*"You guard him in rest and safety whose mental capacity and imagination reflexively leans on you, because he is confident and care-free in You."*

### Application questions:

Which of these statements most closely fits your day-to-day experience?

- *Your spiritual vision is blurry.*
- *You are trying to focus.*
- *Your eyes are fixed on Jesus.*

Are you living a self-dependent life or a God-dependent life?

- *Consider your day-to-day decisions.*
- *Does God's will even enter into your daily decision making?*

How unobscured is your view of God?

- *How much time do you spend dwelling on the truth, promises and character of God?*
- *Consider what characteristic of God He is revealing to you.*
- *Train your mind to reflexively lean upon Him!*