

## NAVIGATING TOWARD OUR DESTINY - Part V Navigating Through Fog

Text: James 4:14

**Key Word:** Fog

**Key Thought:** We must Be Alert While Navigating Through Fog

\*\*\* I'm sure that most of us can remember a time in our life when we needed to travel through fog. It can become a frightening experience. Fog is caused when tiny droplets of water become suspended in the air when the air cools and condenses. It is becoming more frequent because of the increase of industrial pollution particles that the water is interlocked with.

It is a frequent occurrence in Southern Wales which they call a pea souper. The likelihood of accidents increases with the density of the fog. Even sophisticated aircraft and ships with elaborated navigational systems become victims.

Most of the time though, it comes and goes without a trace or tragedy and we forget about it. It is those few times when accidents occur that we become reminded to implement some safety measures. Our lives seem to have similar parallels that I would like to focus upon today. \*\*\*

*“What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”*

*James 4:14*

None of us have a long time to impact others. But it is not the fact of the time we are given. It is not even what happens through the repetition of daily life that normally impacts others and leaves memory that is hard to forget. I believe it is those accidents that take place when we are not cautious enough when the direction we are heading is hard to manoeuvre through.

*“Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.”*

*Psalm 90:10*

To make this easy to remember I'm going to use an acrostic using the letters **CLR** which is a solvent I've used many times in the past to remove a buildup of calcium and rust.

**I. CONFIDENCE IN OUR DIRECTION**  
**II. LOYALTY WITHIN OUR DIRECTION**  
**III. RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR DIRECTION**

**I. CONFIDENCE OF OUR DIRECTION**

*“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.”*

*Psalm 37:23 KJV*

*“The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him;”*

*Psalm 37:23 NIV*

*“If you do what the LORD wants, he will make certain each step you take is sure.”*

*Psalm 37:23 Contemporary English Version*

God seldom tells us what we are about to face the same as a fog quickly ascends upon us. One moment it seems like everything is going well and then we are not sure whether we should advance or not. The Lord has never promised us that He will notify us in advance of upcoming danger. He may inform us of what's ahead but I've noticed that most of the time He simply guides each step I take. It keeps me sensitive too His still, small voice. Once I trust Him with each step, He places an assurance that makes me confident for the steps to come.

Abraham BECAME confident in God. Joseph BECAME confident in God. Moses BECAME confident in God. Mary BECAME confident in Jesus. Are you CONFIDENT that He has “ordered” your steps?

“A multifaceted word that encompasses within Christian thought a range of aspects faith in God, **certainty and assurance** of one's relationship with God, a sense of boldness that is dependent on a realization of one's **acceptance** by God, and a conviction that **one's destiny is secure in God.**”

Bakers Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology  
Edited by Walter A. Elwell  
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Baker Book House Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan USA.

## II. LOYALTY WITHIN OUR DIRECTION

*“What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? For your loyalty is like a morning cloud And like the dew which goes away early.”*

*Hosea 6:4 NASV*

When Hosea wrote these words in 758 B.C. both the nations of Israel and Judah were acting like an unfaithful wife to God. He was calling the nations to repent and return to God in the three verses proceeding verse 4. **They were not being firm to their convictions.**

“In time of drought the morning-cloud promises rain, and the early dew is some present refreshment to the earth; but the cloud is dispersed (and hypocrites are compared to clouds without water, Jude 12) and the dew does not soak into the ground, but is drawn back again into the air, and the earth is parched still.”

[Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible](#)  
[PC Study Bible Formatted Electronic Database](#)  
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It is during the foggy times of our lives that we may go from one “drought” to another. Nothing is accomplished for our good at this time. **It is important to maintain our loyalty to God.** Many things can entice us to head in the wrong direction.

A ship goes through similar times and that is why they have a marine fog horn. It is very loud and uncomfortable to human ears. They have different combinations of blasts to notify nearby vessels. Five blasts of the fog horn is a **danger signal** NOT a **distress signal**. Another is one prolonged blast every two minutes to indicate that the vessel is making its way with its own power. Lighthouses also have fog horns to warn of impending danger when the light cannot penetrate the fog. It takes a skilled captain to understand the various signals. This is no time to put a rookie in charge.

A hygrometer is used to measure the relative humidity of the air to help in fog forecasting in finding the dew point of the air. Professional forecasters warn sailors when the humidity reaches 90-95 % and the sea water reaches a temperature of 5 -10 degrees Celsius that there is an imminent danger of fog. Why am I telling you all of this? It's because the prophet wrote,

*“Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand.”*

*Joel 2:1*

## **II. LOYALTY WITHIN OUR DIRECTION (Contd.)**

This is not the time to change the direction of the church. God's fog horn (trumpet) is being sounded from his holy hill. Our land should be trembling when in fact nations around the world are trying God's patience. The fog is about to lift but it will be too late to change the course of the destructive path that many are heading. It is not a day to **surrender** our trumpets; it is the time to **sound** them.

Every ship has a personal safety plan.

### **Personal Safety During Fog**

Have all the crew put on life jackets, as there will little time if a collision occurs.

Consider carefully before having the crew clip on [safety harnesses], as they must be able to jump clear in a collision.

If the weather is rough, the greater danger of falling overboard may require harnesses to be used.

The life-raft should be at the ready for instant release if needed.

Have red and white flares at hand.

In calm weather, consider putting the dinghy over the side, [towing it astern ] and being available in the event of a collision.

Is the church being loyal to the plan of direction God has clearly set for us to follow?

## **III. RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR DIRECTION**

I am concerned that we are living in a time when we don't want to take responsibility for our actions. Many people are blaming others for the problems they've created. I am so thankful that I have a mother who taught me and our family to live for God and set an example for us to follow. I was taught to live a balanced life. Today I see that we are over protecting our children against "bullies." It is a subtle way to give the enemy an open door into their lives.

I don't see any new laws protecting Christians but they protect every other group against our "aggression." What groups are committing acts of violence? Not committed Christians! Who are committing suicide? Not normally committed Christians! Who are always demanding their "rights" that are clearly "wrongs" and will end with destruction? Not committed Christians!

I've noticed the constant "Local Briefs" in the Standard Freeholder. There are plenty of assault, warrant arrests, breaches of conditions placed upon people. All of these and many others are avoidable. There was a term one of our children used to say that we always corrected which was "My teacher got me in trouble today." We had to say that the teacher was trying to teach the right way to act.

### III. RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR DIRECTION (Contd.)

*“Each one should test their own actions . . .  
Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man  
reaps what he sows.*

*8. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh  
will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the  
Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

*9. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the  
proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give  
up.”*

*Galatians 6:4,8,9*

I encourage you to use Godly sense as you continue Navigating Through the Fog of life.

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Date: July 8/18

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Great is Thy Faithfulness - Eb

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**INTRODUCTION:** *James 4:14; Psalm 90:10*

to Make this Easy to Remember I'm Going to Use an Acrostic Using the Letters **Clr**

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