



# FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

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## LORD WILLING

THE PHRASE IS SIMPLE ENOUGH, SHORT ENOUGH, MEANINGFUL ENOUGH . . . "LORD WILLING." WE OFTEN TACK IT INTO OUR PRAYERS AND SOMETIMES INCLUDE IT IN OUR CONVERSATIONS, BUT DO WE EVER REALLY WONDER IF HIS WILL MIGHT BE DIFFERENT THAN OURS? DON'T WE JUST ASSUME THAT GOD WILL BLESS ANY PLANS THAT WE MAKE OR THAT HE HAS "LEAD" US TO DO THINGS . . . EVEN GOOD AND GODLY THINGS?

WHAT BETTER REMINDER OF OUR SINFUL SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS THAN WHAT IS WRITTEN IN JAMES 4:13-15.

*COME NOW, YOU WHO SAY, "TODAY OR TOMORROW, WE SHALL GO TO SUCH AND SUCH A CITY, AND SPEND A YEAR THERE AND ENGAGE IN BUSINESS AND MAKE A PROFIT." <sup>14</sup> YET YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE LIKE TOMORROW. YOU ARE JUST A VAPOR THAT APPEARS FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND THEN VANISHES AWAY. <sup>15</sup> INSTEAD, YOU OUGHT TO SAY, "IF THE LORD WILLS, WE SHALL LIVE AND ALSO DO THIS OR THAT."*

WHAT BETTER COMMENTARY ON OUR COVID CONDITION?

WE ALL ASSUMED THAT OUR ECONOMY WOULD KEEP HUMMING AND OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WOULD REMAIN LOW. WE ASSUMED THAT OUR CHURCH PROGRAMS WOULD THRIVE, AND OUR PLANS WOULD BE BLESSED. WE ASSUMED THAT WE WOULD TRAVEL AND BUY THINGS AND NEVER EVER RUN OUT OF TOILET PAPER. YET PERHAPS WE'VE TRULY FAILED TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER IF THESE WERE GOD'S WILL. (NOW I'M NOT SUGGESTING ALL EXPECTATIONS AND PLANS ARE WRONG, ONLY THAT WE MORE SERIOUSLY SUBMIT THESE ITEMS TO GOD AND HIS WILL.)

WE KNOW THAT JESUS TAUGHT IN THE THIRD LINE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER, "YOUR WILL BE DONE." WE KNOW TOO THAT OUR SAVIOR SURRENDERED TO GOD'S WILL IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE. "NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS THOU WILT." (MATTHEW 26:39). LESS FAMILIAR IS WHAT THE WRITER OF HEBREWS INCLUDES ABOUT JESUS' MISSION, "BEHOLD I HAVE COME (IN THE VOLUME OF THE ROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO THY WILL, O GOD." (HEBREWS 10:7).

CHRIST SOUGHT GOD'S WILL AND CHRISTIANS SHOULD TOO. I THINK WE NEED TO SERIOUSLY THINK ON THESE THINGS AND THEREBY BETTER SUBMIT TO GOD.

"TEACH ME TO DO THY WILL, FOR THOU ART MY GOD; LET THY GOOD SPIRIT LEAD ME ON LEVEL GROUND."- PSALM 143:10.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE