

PLANNING

For The Future

MAKING OUR PLANS

Not Wrong To Plan For The Future!

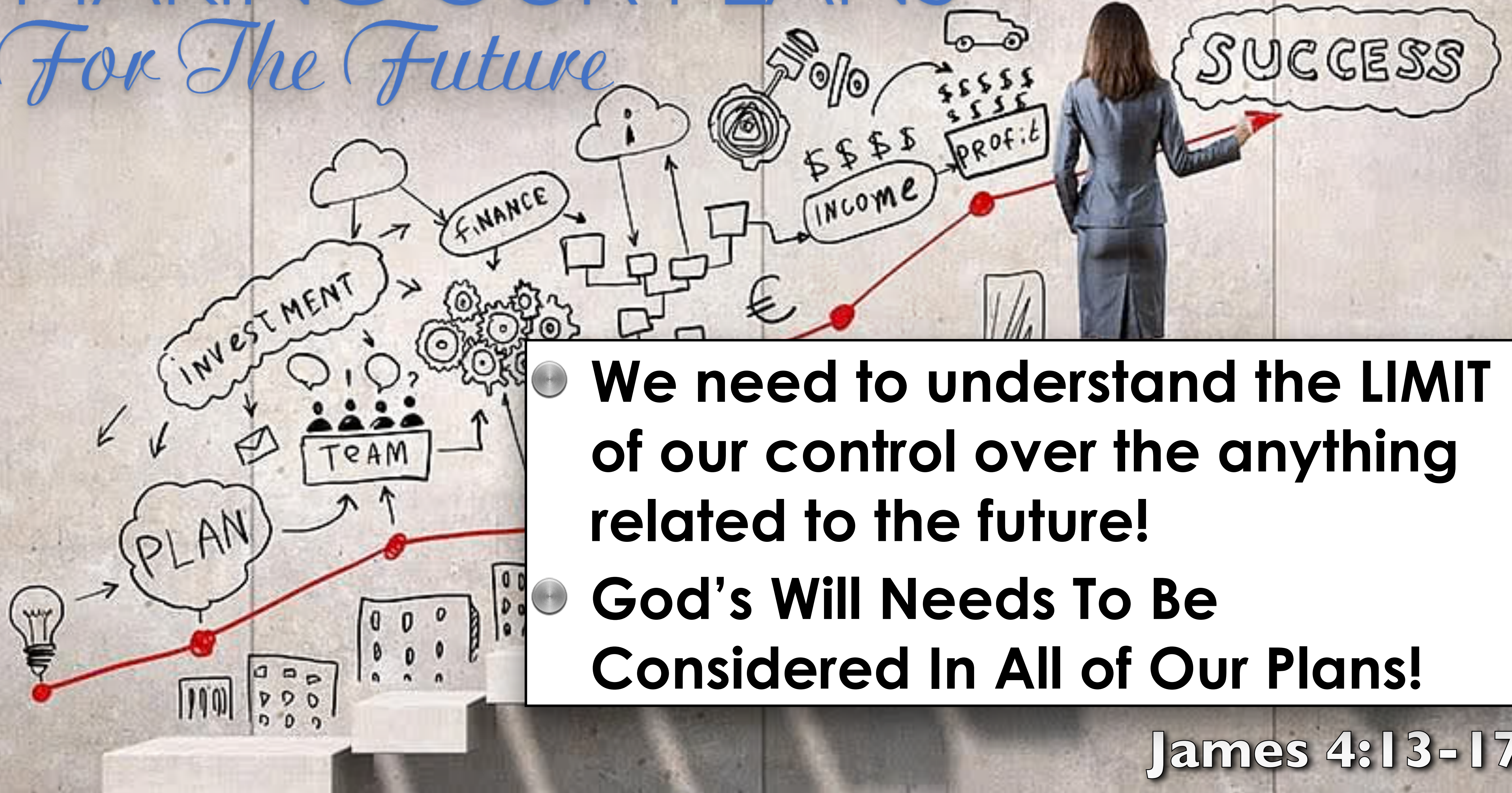
- **Education / Career**
- **Marriage / Family**
- **Location / Residence**
- **Recreation / Vacation,**
- **Finances / Retirement**
- **Worship / Spiritual Growth**
- **ETERNITY / HEAVEN or HELL**



**WHAT DOES
God's Word
SAY ABOUT
MAKING OUR OWN
PLANS?**

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MAKING OUR PLANS *For The Future*



- We need to understand the **LIMIT** of our control over the anything related to the future!
- God's Will Needs To Be Considered In All of Our Plans!

James 4:13-17



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- **PLANNING MUST INCLUDE:**
 - ▶ **Knowledge of God's revelation**
 - ▶ **God's will and allowance**
 - ▶ **Trust in God's sovereignty & love**
 - ▶ **Our plans be for the purpose of serving and pleasing God!**

James 4:13-17

James 4:13–17 (NKJV)

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

MAKING OUR PLANS *For The Future*

Problem Of Self Confidence (13)

James 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;

- **Planned a time to start:** “Today or tomorrow”
- **Planned the place to trade:** “Such and such a city”
- **Planned how long the venture would last:** – “Spend a year there”
- **Planned their activities:** “Buy and sell”
- **Planned the results:** “And make a profit.”

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Problem Of Self Confidence (13)

James 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;

- Their sin was not in "planning for the future" but rather leaving God's will out of their plans (Note verse 15)
- Planning that takes God's will prayerfully into consideration is in fact necessary! (Acts 15:36; 18:20-21; 1 Co 16:5-9)
- How can we know God's will in all of these areas? (2 Tim 2:15; Mat 6:33; Jam. 1:5; Rom. 8:28)

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The Lack of Knowledge & Control - (14)

James 4:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will* happen tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

- We Do Not Know What Will Happen Tomorrow! (Proverbs 27:1; Luke 12:19,20; 2 Cor. 6:2; Eccl. 6:12; 8:16,17)
- We Cannot Control What Happens Tomorrow (Life itself is Uncertain)
 - ▶ Life is FRAIL (14b; Ps 39:5-6,11; Jas 1:10-11)
 - ▶ Life is BRIEF (14c; Job 9:25-26; Job 14:1; 1 Jn 2:17)

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The Right Perspective On Planning – (15)

James 4:15
(NKJV)

¹⁵ Instead you
ought to say, “If the
Lord wills, we
shall live and do
this or that.”

- I must first seek God's approval (Col. 3:17; 1:10; 1 Thes 4:1; 1 John 3:22)
- Contingent on God's permission (Mat 26:39; 1 Co 16:7; Heb. 6:3; Job 1:6-12)
- We are not in control of circumstances or situations that may arise (Deut. 29:29; Ac 18:21; Acts 16:6-10; Rom. 8:28)
- We CONTROL our CHOICES & ACTIONS NOW (Mat. 6:19-33; 26:39; 2 Cor. 6:2)

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Planning Without God Is Boastful, Arrogant & Evil (16)

James 4:16
(NKJV)

¹⁶ But now you
boast in your
arrogance. All such
boasting is evil.

- To plan without taking into consideration God's will is to set ourselves above God! (16; Ps. 52:7)
- Such boasting is evil (16; Is. 47:7-10; Luke 12:15-21)

MAKING OUR PLANS *For The Future*

Don't Procrastinate - Take Advantage of Today – (16,17)

**James 4:17
(NKJV)**

**¹⁷ Therefore, to him
who knows to do
good and does not
do *it*, to him it is
sin.**

- **Take advantage of NOW — TODAY
(2 Cor. 6:2; Acts 24:25)**
 - ▶ Thousands of things will compete for our time every day!
 - ▶ Do we distinguish between “Urgent” things and “Important” things?
 - ▶ Our time needs to be put on a budget as much as our money!

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Don't Procrastinate - Take Advantage of Today – (16,17)

**James 4:17
(NKJV)**

**¹⁷ Therefore, to him
who knows to do
good and does not
do *it*, to him it is
sin.**

- **Take advantage of NOW — TODAY
(2 Cor. 6:2; Acts 24:25)**
 - ▶ Salvation (2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7, 13; 4:7)
 - ▶ Duty (Luke 9:62; Rom. 12:11; Col. 3:23)
 - ▶ Growth (2 Pet. 1:5-10)
 - ▶ Preparation for the Lord's return
(foolish virgins Mat. 25:1-13; The one
talent man Mat. 25:14-30)

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Don't Procrastinate - Take Advantage of Today – (16,17)

**James 4:17
(NKJV)**

¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with your might; for *there is* no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going. (Heb. 9:27)

ABILITY + OPPORTUNITY = RESPONSIBILITY

MAKING OUR PLANS *For The Future*



**DO WE MAKE OUR PLANS BY
SEEKING GOD'S WILL?**

**DO WE MAKE OUR PLANS IN VIEW
OF HONORING GOD?**

**DO WE MAKE OUR PLANS
CONTINGENT ON "IF GOD WILLS?"**

ARE WE CONTENT WITH TODAY?

MAKING OUR PLANS *For The Future*



- **We can't change the past** - but we can determine to use wisely what we have learned & experienced.
- **We are limited by time and ability** - but we should do what we can **today**.
- **We can plan wisely for our future** - but the only way to do so is to make God and His kingdom our priority in each day! (2 Cor. 6:2)

MAKING OUR PLANS *For The Future*

● **PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE AS A CONGREGATION (if GOD wills)**

- ▶ Get into our permanent place for worship as soon as possible.
- ▶ Appoint qualified men as elders (Titus 1:5)
- ▶ Establish training classes and opportunities for our young men and new converts.
- ▶ Reach out to those who have fallen away and make a concerted effort to restore them.
- ▶ Provide training for members to be better equipped for personal evangelism - providing study opportunities for deeper Bible study, (equipping them to answer questions and concerns they may encounter in the fields).

MAKING OUR PLANS *For The Future*

- **The DANGER of self confidence (13)**
- **Acknowledge our lack of knowledge & control (14)**
- **Develop a godly perspective on planning – (15)**
- **Arrogantly planning without considering God's will is sinful (16)**
- **Don't Procrastinate - TAKE ADVANTAGE of TODAY – (17)**



WHAT DOES
God's Word
SAY ABOUT
MAKING OUR OWN
PLANS?

MAKING OUR PLANS

TODAY (2 Cor. 6:2)

CHOOSE (Dt. 30:11-20; Josh. 24:15,24)

COMMITMENT (Ps. 37:5-7; 2 Tim. 1:12)

RESOLVE (1 Kings 18:21; Rom. 6:1-18)

FUTURE (Psalm 119:106)

SET YOUR MIND (Col. 3:1,2)

BET TRANSFORMED (Rom. 12:1,2)

COMMIT (2 Cor. 5:15; 1 Pet. 4:19)

Matthew 6:33-34 (NKJV)

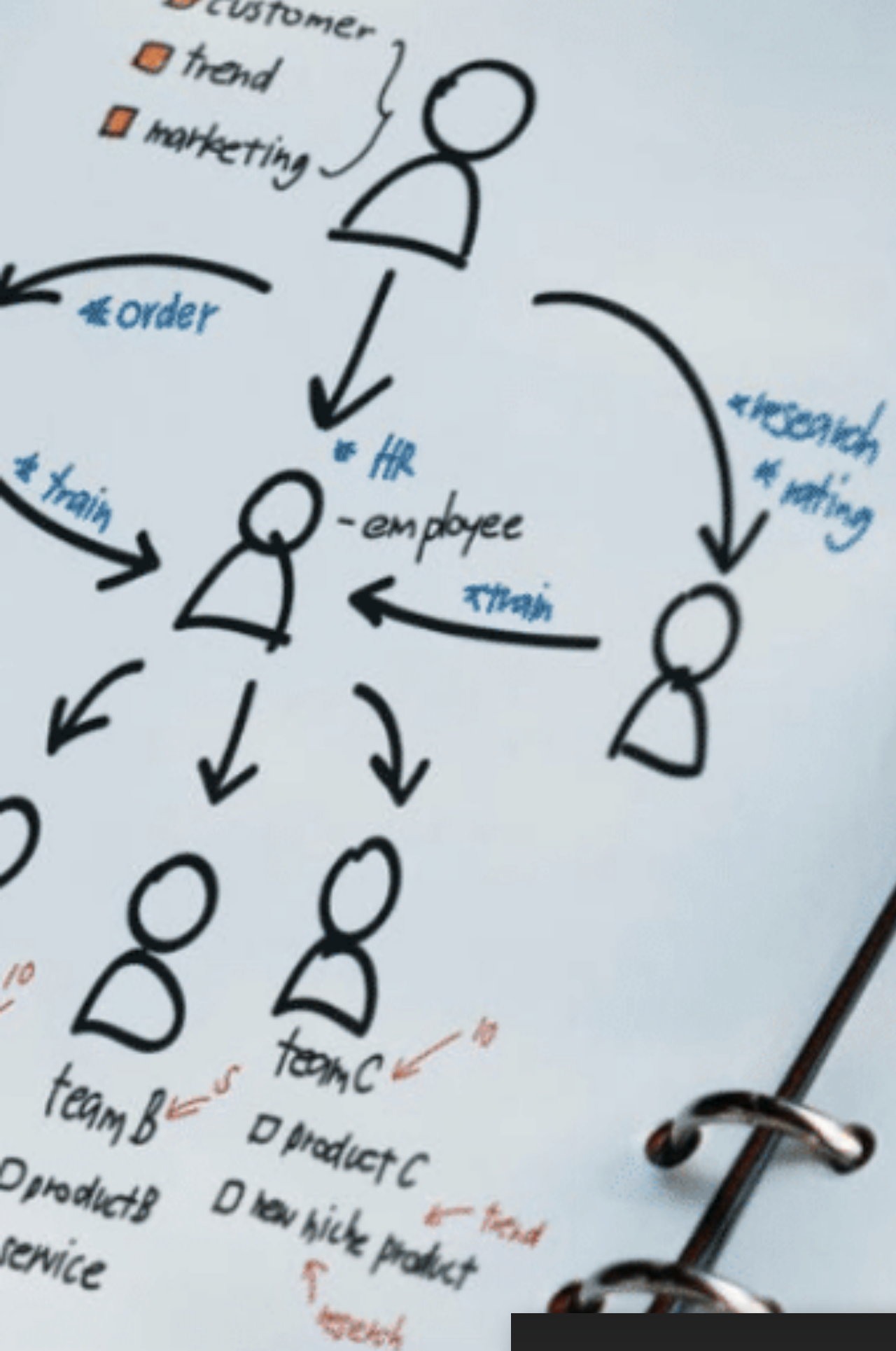
³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

Matthew 16:26 (NKJV)

26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

PLANNING
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HEAVEN? or **HELL?**



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4:13-17