

Study #8
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I WILL

WARM UP

The three most powerful words in the English language are, "I love you".

They cause men to strive all their lives.

They cause kings to abdicate their crowns.

They cause nations to fall.

But maybe the two most powerful words are, "I WILL".

"I will" is a commitment, a vow.

It is giving your word.

It is an unequivocal statement, an absolute.

It is certain, sure, definite.

It is unmistakable, unambiguous, incontestable.

Have you noticed a decided tendency for men (and women) to be reluctant to say,

"I will"? This reluctance to commit, and once committed to see things through, is -

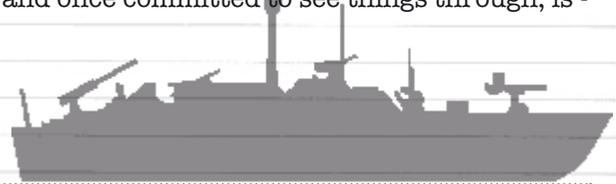
Undermining society

Destabilising families

Destroying foundations

It is holding up the work of God.

It makes us shaky, flaky and quaky.



BACKGROUND

There is a close connection between this passage and what has gone before. James has just told his readers that if they use all the testing experiences of life the right way they will emerge with unswerving constancy, which is the basis of all virtues. And this wisdom comes from asking it of God. When we ask something of God we must use it with generosity. The wisdom we gain is for the good of others.



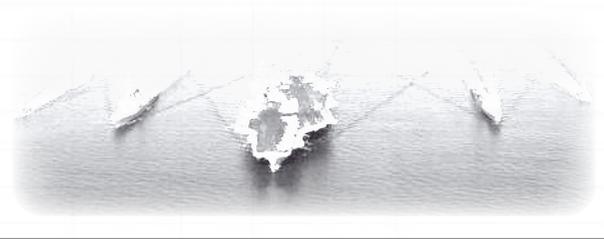
READ James 1:8

QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTION

1. What are some of the key commitments people make in today's world?
2. What helps us keep to our commitments?

3. What causes people to become less committed to marriage, work, children, church?

4. Who has been an example of commitment in your life?



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will consider the commitments I have made and how I will keep them.

CONSIDER THIS

In 2003 there were 16,401 babies killed by abortions. This is the result of immature men and women wanting the sex without commitment. Since 1976, we in NZ have killed more than 270,000 children. That's enough to fill 9,000 classrooms.

In NZ right now, 60% of all children born will enter into a broken family. The result of lack of commitment to a partner.

Every year more than 8,500 children will experience the divorce of their parents.



WRAP UP

- The statement "I will"...
- Is a future imperative
 - Is a decision leading to a destiny
 - Is an unequivocal statement