

Week 10
62/303

Transforming Daily
“ . . . a vapor that appears for a little time . . . ”
James 4:14

I can still remember the vaporizer my mother would place in our rooms when my brother, sister and I had some respiratory illness. To this day I'm still not sure how it worked, but somehow the vapor aided in our healing and recovery. She would also use vapor rubs on our chests. As a matter of fact, when I close my eyes I can still smell the menthol aroma. However, unlike the vapor rubs, with the vaporizer I could see the mist pouring out of the spout and rising into the room then dissipating. The vapor didn't last very long, but it had long lasting effects.

James tells us that our lives are but a vapor, and as such we should plan accordingly. Psalm 39:5 emphasizes the very same point that man is on this earth for a short period of time. With this in mind, how are you spending your life? In whom or what are you investing your talents and gifts? What pursuits do you find yourself interested in?

I believe it was the late Adrian Rogers who said, in the context of ministry, that you only have three years, give or take, to influence the life of another. Further, he said that we can only significantly influence seven people at a time, and carry on meaningful relationships with only up to 70 people at a time. If you do the math, that's a pretty big turnover in friends, acquaintances and relationships in general. Can you remember all of your elementary teachers by name, middle school, junior high, high school? What about your college professors? How about all of your pastors, Sunday school teachers, youth and children's directors? Can you remember the name of your first boss, and all of the names of your co-workers at your first place of employment? Chances are you can remember a few, but not all of them, and yet everyone of them, for better or worse, contributed something to your life that made you who you are today.

What have you contributed to the lives of others? More importantly, what are you contributing to the lives of others? Keep in mind that our lives are “a vapor that appears for a little time.”