



From the pulpit and on television we hear pastors tell us, ***“God has a plan for your life. We just need to find out what it is and be open and willing to fulfill that plan.”***

Yes...God has a plan...but, its more than one plan...HE has **PLANS** for your life. God knows where you are and what troubles you are encountering. He rejoices with you when you obey and fulfill those plans HE constantly places in front of you for your good.

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Plans are good when we let God help us to live life to honor HIM.

We all use plans to help us navigate in this world of chaos and disorder. We use plans to cook up a dinner for the family, plans to make our day a day of interest and challenges, and plans to prepare ourselves for the day and even tomorrow. Of course, our plans don't end there. We have plans to find the one in whom we will share our whole life with...and plans to raise a family. We get an architect to come up with the plans for our new home...making sure all of the little things we have thought about in the middle of the night are in those plans.

What plans do you have for the world you are living in? Do you feel you have achieved the plans you have set for yourself? Are your plans changing as you age?

If you have plans for your life, do you feel they are in line with the plans God has for you?

In a world of over seven billion people, it's easy to feel small and insignificant—even feeling as if our day-to-day lives aren't worth much, especially when we're drowning in a sea of mundane circumstances. Yet God has a purpose and a plan for each and every one of us.

Isn't it good to know that God has a purpose for our being on planet earth...and He includes all the plans for our lives to make sure we have been given every right and way to have fellowship with HIM?

We all have unique gifts and talents. We all have unique perspectives, certain friend groups, and various workplaces. God uses this rich diversity to carry out his will, and his plans are always bigger, bolder, and better than anything we could ever imagine.

So, then, how can we know God's plan for our lives?

I believe there are at least eight (8) vital keys to knowing God's will and plan(s) for your life. Here they are:

Note: Today, we are going to focus on two (2) of the 8 keys to knowing God's will and plan(s) for your life.

1. Walk and Talk with God.

For starters, if you are interested in knowing God's will and plan for your life, then you must learn to walk and talk with God. You need to develop a relationship with Him. Christianity is all about relationship rather than just religion.

And so you must *cultivate* your relationship with God. You must seek to *know Him* and not just seek to know *about Him*.

You will cultivate that relationship best by spending time in His Word, taking time for prayer, and taking every opportunity you can to be involved in church and small group [Bible study](#) opportunities. When you seek these disciplines in your life, God will begin the first steps to revealing His plan(s) to you.

[Proverbs 3:5-6](#) – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path.”

2. Surrender your Will to God's Perfect Will.

First...ask yourself, “Do I know God’s will for my life?” Many times when we say we are seeking God’s will, what we are really wanting to say to God is this: “OK, God, here’s what I’m planning to do. Now I need you to rubber stamp this, all right?” I must tell you that this is not really effective in finding His true will.

What is God's will?

Many Christians speak of knowing or doing God's will, but what is it? The Bible speaks of God's will from more than one perspective.

First, the Bible speaks of God's sovereign, or supreme, will.

Ephesians 1:11 teaches God is the One "who works all things according to the counsel of His will." Job 42:2 affirms, "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted." Romans 8:28 states that God's will works for the good of believers: "We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Second, the Bible also speaks of people doing God's will.

For example, God "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). John 3:16 teaches,

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." The Lord wills or desires people to come to salvation as well as to obey His commands. For example, Jesus left the earth with the challenge to His followers to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Third, the Bible speaks of God's will for our individual lives.

Some of these desires are universal, such as 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" In other areas, God has a unique plan for groups of people as well as for our individual lives. For example, God spoke to the people of Israel as a group on one occasion, saying, "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope*" (Jeremiah 29:11). To the apostle Paul, God once gave a dream to travel to a particular area to share the Gospel: "*And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'* And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them" (Acts 16:9-10).

In summary, God's will can refer to His perfect plan known since the beginning of time, God's teachings for all people, God's specific desires for a community of people, or God's unique plan for our individual lives.

God knows all that will take place, has commanded us to follow certain teachings, and leads and guides both individuals and communities of believers toward certain actions that bring glory to His name.

Where are you today?

Are you seeking God's will for your life?

Many of us are on our last quarter mile. Are we still thriving and striving to know God, revealing His Son

to others by the way we live or have lived, and giving God all that we have for the final yards of our race?

Before God will begin to reveal His will to you, you must be committed to doing whatever it is that He desires for you to do. God will likely be slow to show you His plan if He knows you will likely not do that plan anyway.

Romans 12:1-2 – “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Jesus was willing to die for us, so shouldn't we be willing to live for Him? When we surrender to Him, that is when He really begins to direct our steps.

