

Lesson #2: God's Plans for Your Life!

Planning for the future is good if you let God have HIS way in your life!

God has a specific plan for you...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."

Last week we saw that God is always out in front on making His plans for your life fulfilled. HOWEVER, HE EXPECTS YOU TO FULFILL YOUR PART OF THE PLANS. There are conditions to his plans.

Like a contractor building a home for a client...The contractor has plans to build the home, knows how to build the home, and waits for you to sign a contract for him to start building that dream home.

God does not automatically build it without your approvalyou're your decision to activate the contract.

If you have signed the contract (believing in God and His Son, Jesus), then God, the Holy Spirit, will activate the plan and help you in every way to achieve those plans God has thought about, written them out (your name is covered in the blood and your name is written down in glory, the Lamb's Book of Life), and God will walk you through those plans to the home you have been promised in "Jesus' Father's house.

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.

The question...How can we know God's plan and plans for our life?

Last week, I said that I believe there are at least eight (8) vital keys to knowing God's will and plan(s) for your life.

1. Walk and Talk with God.

Adam and Eve did it...they were not satisfied with their unique fellowship with God.

Enoch did it! The text reads that "Enoch faithfully walked with God: and he was no more; for God took him" (Gen 5:24),

God just brought him up to glory with Him.

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.

A. The Bible speaks of God's sovereign, or supreme, will.

<u>Ephesians 1:11</u> teaches God is the One "who works all things according to the counsel of His will." <u>Job 42:2</u> affirms,

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted." <u>Romans 8:28</u> 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."

B. 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" (<u>1 Timothy 2:4</u>). John <u>3:16</u> 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.

C. The Bible speaks of God's will for our individual lives.

Some of these desires are universal, such as <u>1</u> <u>Thessalonians 5:16-18</u>: "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. 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).

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.

3. Obey what you already know to be God's Will.

Many people seem to want to know what God's plan is for their lives, but they overlook the fact that 98% of His will is already

delineated carefully through His Word. God is very clear about many, many aspects of His will. For instance, it is clearly His plan that we abstain from sexual immorality (<u>1 Thessalonians 4:3</u>).

If we do not obey the things that God has shown us clearly to be His will, why would we think He would reveal any further information regarding His plan for our lives? Obedience is an important first step.

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.

