



Lesson #3: God's Plans for Your Life!

Charlie Brown is depressed because it seems all things in life are futile. He lost the ball game. He believes in people and they let him down. He wants to kick the football just one time and feel the pigskin pound against his toe...but, that won't happen because Lucy moves the football just as he swings his foot toward the ball.

But knowing Charlie Brown, he will get up from his depressed state and try to win that baseball game...kick that football before Lucy can pull it away...and that is because HE LOVES AND EXPECTS COMPASSION FROM OTHERS AS HE LOVES TO BE COMPASSIONATE TO THEM.

Basically, Charlie Brown is an encourager and a team player. He treats people as he expects to be treated.

"The best thing in life is to go ahead with all your plans and your dreams, to embrace life and to live everyday with passion, to lose and still keep the faith and to win while being grateful."

There are at least eight (8) vital keys to knowing God's will and plan(s) for your life.

Two previous lessons:

- 1. Walk and Talk with God.***
- 2. Surrender your Will to God's Perfect Will.***
- 3. . Obey what you know as truth to be God's Will.***

This Lesson:

4. Seek input from godly friends and family members

A key component to finding God's will for you (and me) is to seek the input of godly advisors as you walk the trail called "life." This suggestion is so important for every person, wise and unwise. We cannot do life alone. We must make friends and be a friend.

We really need 3-4 godly mentors. Therefore, start seeking them out...no matter what stage of life you are in.

If you choose to surround yourself with godly advisors, they will be instrumental and proactive in helping you discern God's plan for your life. But if you surround yourself with people who are far from God, your hope of finding His best for your life will be greatly hindered. The ungodly have always been there tempting and giving advise when you are trying to make important decisions in life.

Discernment is a godly attribute...seek it, ask for it, and be attentive to the schemes of the devil.

Proverbs 11:14 - Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

The church is designed to help you greatly with this. The more you involve yourself with a community of believers, the greater your chances will be of finding godly men and women who can help you discern God's will. Be careful in how you understand this statement. In today's world, it is very important that we are wise in a "man/woman" friendship. **Satan would love to turn something good into a bad situation.** Be aware of Satan's schemes of tempting God's leaders and congregants.

5. Pay close attention as to how God has wired you.

In this world God created, He created you to fulfill a specific role. There is no one else who can achieve completely what God has purposely created you to do.

Peter, follower of Jesus, gives us this admonition:

1 Peter 4:10 - As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

God has gifted every one of us to perform a special mission for which we alone were created. Isn't this an amazing truth? God is so creative and perfect in supplying every need according to His riches in glory!

Therefore, when you seek to discover God’s will for your life, pay specific attention to how He has gifted you. His plan for you will always be directly related to the gifts that He has graciously and lovingly given you. The great news is that you will automatically be good at whatever it is that He has called you to do! Does that mean that we won’t make mistakes? No...it means that the Holy Spirit will help us to achieve the task assigned for us to do.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11, “⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,¹¹ and to still another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”

Life is like an ice cream cone, enjoy it before it melts!

6. Stop and Listen to God’s Spirit.

One of the things that I have treasured in my spiritual life is the times when I know God is speaking to me. God’s method of confirming His truth is not when I am speaking...or even seriously thinking. It is when I am either quietly reading God’s Word, conversing with my best friend (Shery Cumby), and/or when I start to write out my thoughts on paper. I have come to realize that my thoughts are not His **thoughts**. *Isaiah 55:8, “For my **thoughts** are not your **thoughts**, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.*

If you genuinely are seeking God’s will for your life, you will hear from God. He speaks, He enjoys conversing with His own, and He loves to know we are dependent on Him.

When we drop all our insufficient methods and ways of trying to please others, we will appropriate a wonderful truth into our inner being. That truth is “God does not lie!” He does not give up on you! He will make a way when and where there is no way. I promise you. All the lessons that Gerald Cumby has

thought about, typed on paper, taught in a class setting, and placed on a website that goes out all over the world (A “GOD Thing”) is not Gerald...It is God doing His work through a vessel who is amazed that HE has chosen me. If it is just me, you will find mistake after mistake, mess after mess, and an insufficient diagram or promotion of the truth of His Word. A significant component to my prayer life is listening. I take time to listen to what God might have to say to me. Do I miss His voice and message sometime...You bet!!

During my time with God, I meditate on questions that I have of which I don't understand, I prepare to listen...thinking “God, what does this Scripture mean? Why is this happening to me? Why does my family have to go through this trial? God will start flooding my heart with ideas and information regarding these questions. Typing and/or writing as fast I can, I feel His Spirit speaking to my heart and on the pages it goes. Am I more godly than others? No! NO! Of course not, but in those times, I am humbled by His Spirit. I realize then that my spirit is intertwined with the Holy Spirit because according to the Word, the Holy Spirit lives within me.

John 10:27 – “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

If you don't get anything else from this lesson, get this!

“Finishing is better than starting!” Ecclesiastes 7:8 (The Living Bible).

“When your legs can't run anymore, run with your heart.”

“The moment when you want to quit is the moment you need to keep pushing.”

“Don't fear moving slowly forward...fear standing still.” – Kathleen Harris

