



Planning is important in every area of our life!

Remember when you planned to build that kite or that sand castle on the beach? Remember planning for the first date...or your wedding? Remember planning for the first house you were going to make into a home? Remember planning for a new little one that is going to bring you so much joy?

Remember when?

The most important planning we can make is our plans for our being with Jesus...being with God throughout eternity!

All of us want to know what God's will is for our lives.

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

Three (3) 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.*
- 4. Seek Input from Godly Friends and Family Members*
- 5. Pay Close Attention as to How God has Wired You.*
- 6. Stop and Listen to God's Spirit*

AND THIS WEEK...

- 7. Be Sure and Listen to your heart.*

When you listen to the Spirit of God, you know what he is saying is true. *Where does the Spirit reside and How does he know what you are having to deal with? How does he know where you are in the life cycle?*

Note: Your heart knows that he (the Spirit) is giving you the right advice. He lives in you. He knows your going out and coming in...Everything about you!

To understand this point, consider the following passage:

[Psalms 37:4-5](#) - 4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. (NKJV)

Scripture is not only true; it is exciting!

When you are close to Him, He actually begins to shape your desires so that you desire the things that He has already called you to do.

Therefore, His plan truly becomes a super-exciting adventure!

He literally and lovingly shapes my “wanter” to want to do the things for which He has actually created me.

When we fail to listen to our hearts, we find ourselves literally yelling for God’s help and forgiveness.

But...We are not the only one that has this problem!

Paul, in the Letter to the Romans stated,

“We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.^[c] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will

rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” Romans 7:14-25

8. Take a Hard and Honest Look at Your Circumstances.

God often demonstrates His plan for our lives by lining up circumstances in obvious ways. However, He also shows us what His will is NOT for us to do in that same way.

For instance, if you are 5’ 6” tall and weigh 125 lbs., it is not likely that God has created you to play professional football.

It is probably not God’s will for you to take a job that you are not qualified to do . Again, listen to the Spirit in you. The devil schemes to make you think you can be an airline pilot when you have problems with your vision.

Most of us who have lived life on planet earth for a while have discovered that God is really good at opening and closing doors. He did that for the Apostle Paul and his companions in Acts. Take a look at this passage in which Luke describes in detail:

Acts 16:6-10, “Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

We see that Paul had to face closed doors in his ministry.

God often uses closed doors to show us clearly what He does NOT want us to do. He also uses open doors at times to show us what He DOES want us to do.

Although this does not mean that every open door is definitely God’s plan, it does help to give us some basic direction in our lives to please not only God, but to know that He is going to be with us in whatever challenge we might be undertaking.

GOD'S WORD MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR...BUT, IT IS ALWAYS WHAT YOU NEED TO HEAR!

Although you may feel that your life is ordinary, in the hands of our maker the extraordinary is always possible.

Here are some encouraging words for you as you make plans for your life by living in the Spirit.

1. 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."

2. Esther 4:14, "Perhaps you were born for such a time as this."

3. Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

4. Psalm 33:11, "The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations."

5. Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

6. 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

7. Psalm 32:8, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."

8. Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

*God's plan is rarely a straight shot to a visible goal. His plan requires of us a journey, illustrated so well in Bunyan's [*The Pilgrim's Progress*](#), and that journey may be filled with detours, sudden stops, and confusing turns.*

But if our hearts are set to obey Him in all that we know to do, then we will be in the center of His will every step of the way.