

DISCOVERING GOD'S PLAN

JUNE 4, 2017

JAMES 4:13-17

To believers, nothing is more important than finding and fulfilling God's plan for our lives. Knowing this, James addresses an attitude that existed among the believers of his day. In their arrogance, they planned their future independent of God. His counsel is for today.

1. It's foolish to plan our future apart from God. "Go to now" means what are you thinking, or we might say "seriously."
2. Only God knows the future and what's in our best interest.
3. The right attitude is found in saying "if it is God's will" we will live and do this or that.
4. Boasting about being in control of the future is evil. **LUKE 12:16-21**

GOD'S PLAN IS FOR GOOD. JEREMIAH 29:11-13 (ESV)

What if we don't know God's plan? Sooner or later decisions must be made. What college do I go to? What should I study? Who do I marry? God has a good plan, but how do I find it?

1. Abraham had a divine visitation.
2. Joseph had a prophetic dream.
3. Moses saw a burning bush.
4. Jeremiah received a touch. **JEREMIAH 1:4-9**
 - Wouldn't it be nice to get a letter from heaven or have a choir of angels chanting where we should go, what we should study or who we should marry? Adam's wife was formed, ours must be found.

KEYS TO DISCOVERING GOD'S PLAN

1. Walk with God. **PROVERBS 3:5-6**
 - A. Christianity is about relationship. How can we trust Him if we don't know Him. We need to spend time in the Word and prayer.
2. Surrender our will to God's. **PHILIPPIANS 2:13 (HCSB)**
 - A. It's not about having God endorse our plans, but getting involved in God's plans for our lives. **PROV. 19:21 (AMP)**
3. Renew our mind with God's Word. **ROMANS 12:2**
 - A. God's will is good, acceptable and perfect. We must know God's Word because in it His will is revealed.
4. Obey the general revealed will we know. **1 THES. 5:18**
 - A. By obeying the revealed will of God, we position ourselves to receive specifics.
5. Recognize how God has wired us. **1 PETER 4:10**
 - A. We all have been given talents, gifts and abilities that are to be used to honor God and glorify Him on earth.
6. Listen to God's Spirit. **JOHN 16:13, ROMANS 8:14**
 - A. The spirit within us has been sent to guide us through life.
7. Listen to our heart. **PSALMS 37:4-5**
 - A. God shapes our desires to align with His. He births within us desires that we would never consider.
8. Listen to godly counsel. **PROVERBS 11:14**
 - A. A key component to discovering God's plan is seeking input from godly advisors.
 - B. If we surround ourselves with people far from God, they can hinder our finding God's plan.

CONCLUSION: PROVERBS 16:3 (AMPC) – Make this our daily confession: "Thank you Father for causing my thoughts to become agreeable to your will so that my plans are established and succeed."