

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES

A STUDY IN DISCERNING THE VOICES OF OUR DAY

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Who Told You

That God Has A Plan ?

discerning the voices of our day and knowing what to do about what you hear

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Development, Preparation, Maturity, Discipleship

Genesis 3:1-11

And God said,

“Who told you that you were naked?”

There have been many well intended Christians on both sides of the fence regarding the idea and use of the word “Plan” when it comes to God.

So, we need to first begin with; what do we mean by a “Plan” and so because we are Christians, we look to His definition.

**“Plan” according to God is;
His revealed will. His expressed word.**

**There are those who say;
“God has a wonderful plan for your life and to discover what His plan is for you – all you need to do is just receive Christ.”
That is of course a false message and a false gospel**

**But there are also those who say;
“Telling someone that God has a wonderful plan for their lives is wrong and is misleading”
That also is of course a false message and a false gospel**

The truth is – God’s Bible tells us over and over again that He does have a plan for our lives and it is a sanctified - holy plan because it honors God and it fulfills my reason for being.

“Who Told You That God Has A Plan ?”

1.) We all appreciate a plan

Let’s define the word “Plan” from God’s perspective.

An orderly arrangement of thoughts, strategies, concepts or methods with the intent to create or to achieve.

1a.) Because a plan speaks of purpose

Genesis 1:3-4

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that **it was good**;

Genesis 1:6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26

Then God said,

Genesis 1:31

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was **very good**.

So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

The “Very Good” is what came out of His Very Good Plan. In fact, the Plan that God had, could have only been known to us by experiencing the tangible reality of His thought.

God spoke things into existence because He had a Plan.

every one of us, believer or non-believer alike

will agree that we are the most happiest and fulfilled when we are engaged in something that we deem to be greater than ourselves. (it’s a simple but profound human fact) and that “something” always is in relation to a plan.

? how do you view life ?

Is life a purposeless, meaningless, mindless collection of accidents and chance? Then your life is fraught with worry and fear and torment.

Do you view life as a purposeful, meaningful, mindful thread of organized and ordered experiences? If so, then your life is filled with expectation, hope, dynamic – motivation !

“Who Told You That God Has A Plan ?”

1b.) Because a plan speaks of design

Design - meaning that God does everything with a deliberate **intent** and for a specific **reason**.

God cannot do anything that doesn't have a purpose.

To do something without a purpose would be meaningless, even stupid.

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. **9** “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

“we call them divine appointments”
but what do we mean by that?

it means that when we “present ourselves to the doing of God’s will” when it is before us – we will see the impossible happen.

Proverbs 3:5

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 paths.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.

Psalms 37:4

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.

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

All to bring about His designed plan for you

What are these?

<http://www.dypatil.edu/mumbai/architecture/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/blueprints-940x350-cropped.jpg>

How do you go from this;

<https://s-media-cacheak0.pinimg.com/736x/56/26/a8/5626a809ce292bae6d37983f2f396c26.jpg>

To getting this!

http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5015/5426674488_ba04ee5958.jpg

or from this;

<http://cdn.quotesgram.com/img/40/42/176405073-670px-Memorize-a-Bible-Verse-Step-5.jpg>

To getting this!

<http://www.blogos.org/churchandministry/images/120124-tim-tebow-christian.jpg>

or this

https://images.csmonitor.com/csmarchives/2011/04/THANKSGIVING_6204225.JPG?alias=standard_600x400

or this

http://wbtv.images.worldnow.com/images/13662118_G.jpg

God's Plan is Total, Radical, Transformation !!!

“Who Told You That God Has A Plan ?”

1c.) Because a plan speaks of meaning

Matthew 6:33

**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.**

John 15:16

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and **appointed you that you should go and bear fruit**, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (In glorifying God)

“Who Told You That God Has A Plan ?”

2.) We all desire a plan

2a.) A plan keeps me on target

there's that ole' saying;
“If you aim and nothing, you will hit it every time.”

Jesus said “Come and follow Me”

The Christian's Target is One – Walk like Jesus Did...

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

**Whatever it is that you are focused on,
that becomes your target.**

You can be seeking to avoid a pitfall or an issue or a situation, but if you are always thinking about it – it will be by default your target and it will increasingly control you.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

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2b.) A plan results in unity

Why does the Bible spend so much time and real estate on the issue of doctrine / teachings?

Because there can be no actual unity among humans without **transcendent truth – Doctrine !**

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' (1) **doctrine** and (2) fellowship, (3) in the breaking of bread, and in (4) prayers.

Ephesians 4:13-14a

Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men,

Regarding Church life, Am I alive in a Church ?

“Who Told You That God Has A Plan ?”

3.) We all need a plan

but you might say today that you already have a plan.
good for you – maybe.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a **way (plan)** that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

“Who Told You That God Has A Plan ?”

3a.) God’s plan communicates vision

we love to study the Old Testament because we know how it all turns out. We know the plan in advance and so we “relax” while reading it.

but hasn't God communicated to us today
that He has our issues well in hand?

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the **thoughts** (texture-plan) that I think toward you, says the LORD, **thoughts** (texture-plans) of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Can you say that God has given you “vision” to live your life for His glory ?

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete **IT** until the day of Jesus Christ;

Romans 8:28-31

And we know that **all things** work together for good (IN THE END) to those who love God, to those who are the called according to **His purpose**. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image** of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified (Like Jesus was) . :31 What then shall we say to these things? If **(Since) God is for us, who can be against us?**

When are those verses true?

“Brother will deliver up (Christian) brother to death, and a father his (Christian) child; and children will rise up against (Christian) parents and cause them to be put to death. And you (Christian) will be hated by all for My name’s sake”

Church history tells us the fate of several of the apostles and early Christians:

John the Baptist:	Beheaded, Judea, A.D. 30
Steven:	Stoned, Jerusalem, 33 A.D.
Philip:	Crucified, Phrygia, A.D. 54
Matthew:	Beheaded, Ethiopia, A.D. 60
Barnabas:	Burned to death, Cyprus, A.D. 64
Mark:	Dragged to death, Alexandria, A.D. 64
James (the Less):	Clubbed to death, Jerusalem, A.D. 66
Paul:	Beheaded, Rome, A.D. 66
Peter:	Crucified, Rome, A.D. 69
Andrew:	Crucified, Achaia, A.D. 70
Thomas:	Speared to death, Chen'nai, A.D. 72
Luke:	Hanged, Athens, A.D. 93

Hebrews 11:13, 35b-39a

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth, **35b** Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. **36** Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. **37** They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— **38** of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. **39** And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith,

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3b.) God’s plan reveals dependency

**The Bible teaches us that;
Only those who are “God-Dependent” survive this life, everybody else dies !**

To truly enjoy and experience this life to the fullest you will have to become dependent upon God, not mom and dad. Not the government. – God !

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. **9** “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

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3c.) God’s plan determines identity

The #1 Plan above all others, is first and foremost that we be one with Him in Fellowship/Union.

John 17:16-18,21

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. **18** As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. **21** That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Our Identity Christian, is no longer in what we possess, it is not what we can do or what we can afford. Because as redeemed humans, we’ve come out from being lost and Christless individuals, we are now, happily, coping with our new identity in Christ Jesus as His followers.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new (meaning – just new or just built or just born) creation (dwelling, structure, place); old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**This requires of us to employ a whole new way of;
(1) thinking and (2) seeing and (3) being.**

Warning:

My past gets together with my emotions and together they visit my mind. If my mind doesn't apply the truth of God to my new identity - - My mind walks these two other bums right into my life.

Colossians 3:1-4

IF (forasmuch, since, because) then you were raised with Christ, (a) SEEK those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 (b) SET your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is HIDDEN (as in re-located, safely put. tucked away) with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

How do I “get-into-being” the new me? How to Think, See and Be with your new identity in Christ.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, BUT CHRIST (He animates me) lives in me; and the life which I NOW live in the flesh I live by faith IN THE SON of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

End of Study

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