



**WHEN OUR
PLANS
COME TO
RUIN**

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF THE BEST LAID PLANS

James 4:13-17 KJV

[13] Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: [14] Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. [15] For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. [16] But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. [17] Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

1. DON'T MAKE PLANS WITHOUT GOD

Planning is never wrong, there is wisdom in a proper plan. But a fool charts the course for tomorrow without seeking God's will first.

When you stop setting goals, you stop living but don't get too wrapped up in your own vision because it's what God wants over what we want. This includes our desire for money and relationships, we can get so desirous that we can easily forget about God.

Psalm 14:1-2 KJV

[1] The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done



2. GOD KNOWS THE FUTURE, WE DON'T

It is futile to make plans with a limited view of the future, only God knows the future so it's wise to seek his guidance when involving the future in our planning. God allows issues to occur in our life to show US what we will do, not to show GOD what we will do, he knew what we would do long before we actually did it.

It's important to understand that God is the one who gave us our life and he did so because of a specific purpose that he had in mind at the time of our creation. Wisdom is seeking God to discover our purpose. Our life is like a vapor, it's here and gone very quickly. Time constantly moves forward marching us slowly to the moment when our life is over, we don't get time back once it's gone. God help me to number my days for your will.

Proverbs 27:1 KJV

Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Isaiah 46:9-10 KJV

[9] Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, [10] Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Psalm 90:10,12 KJV

[10] The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. [12] So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.



3. MAKE GODS WILL OUR TOP PRIORITY

It's not just how we speak or pray, God's will in our life should be a foundational part of the way we think. **GOD IS IN CONTROL, NOT MAN!** God sees tragedies and disappointments around the corner, we do not.

Revelation 3:7 KJV

[7] And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Daniel 2:20-21 KJV

[20] Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: [21] And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Ecclesiastes 3:14 KJV

[14] I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it , that men should fear before him.

To know God's will for our life yet choose another path is a sin. Specifically, it's a sin against an open book, meaning we knew what was right, but we rejected it. It is rebellion against God.



GOD VS. FREE WILL

The story of the prodigal son is an excellent example of choosing our own set of plans to follow rather than to seek out God's plan for our life. At first, it seems like we're in control and can make decisions for ourselves, but the ending is always the same old story of ruin and regret. We can make decisions independent of God but that doesn't mean we'll make the right decisions.

Luke 15:11-32 KJV

[11] And he said, A certain man had two sons: [12] And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. [13] And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. [14] And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. [15] And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. [16] And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

[17] And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! [18] I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, [19] And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. [20] And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. [21] And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. [22] But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: [23] And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: [24] For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

[25] Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. [26] And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. [27] And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. [28] And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. [29] And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: [30] But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. [31] And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. [32] It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

God gives us a free will to choose which plans we'll follow, His or our own. It's best to seek God's plan for our life in the first place, because if it's not God's plan, we'll never keep it or even enjoy it ultimately. So why go through all the effort, pain, and heartache of a plan apart from God? God gives us a free will to choose which plans we'll follow, His or our own, but in truth, if it's not God's will you'll never keep it. that won't succeed?

1. GOD WILL PERMIT THE EXERCISE OF FREE WILL IF WE INSIST

1. It does not mean there won't be consequences.
2. God will allow us to enjoy the pleasure of sin, or things outside his will, for a season.
3. Sin has momentary benefits and pleasure to teach us a lesson about the appeal of the flesh vs. eternal satisfaction through desiring the things of God.

2. GOD WARNS US THAT ALL WE ACQUIRE OUTSIDE HIS WILL EVENTUALLY TURNS TO RUIN

1. Ashes are the of something once all the usefulness has been removed.
2. We think we are the exception to the consequences of choosing our way over God's way.

3. GOD IS WILLING TO FORGIVE AND RESTORE THOSE WHO REPENT, LEAVE THE ASHES BEHIND AND RETURN TO HIM.

4. It's better to have little yet be in the will of God than to have all the wealth of the world and be apart from God.
5. God rejoices in our obedience and desire to serve him.
6. Once we turn from ourselves and back to God he will forgive us, Accepts us and the restoration begins immediately.
7. Sometimes the scars of the sin remain with us even though we are forgiven.
8. God restores us completely, no matter what wounds we carry when we repent and return to him.

PLANNING WITHOUT GOD

One of the primary reasons our plans don't work out is that they're our plans, not God's, and we just want His blessing. Sometimes we just have to wait in silence. It's maddening thinking that God has abandoned us but God has perfect timing, we don't. Our impatience can cost us dearly. God tests us through patience. Every aspect of our life is important to God.

Genesis 11:1-9 KJV

[1] And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. [2] And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. [3] And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. [4] And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. [5] And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. [6] And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. [7] Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. [8] So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. [9] Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

God wanted man to scatter throughout the whole earth but man thought better and decided to stay in one place and create their own city (reality). Man preferred to stick together in their own strength and build a tower to glorify their unity. Whether we make big decisions or small decisions, God has a plan and wants to be involved in our life but we may not see the same big picture that God sees so we rely on our own myopic view.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF PLANNING WITHOUT GOD:

1. You cannot claim God's promise of provision and protection
2. You cannot honestly ask for His guidance and blessing.
3. The absence of God limits the possibilities of the project
4. It's a pride issue, we're smart enough to handle it on our own.
5. It results in confusion and conflict
6. It can prove costly, disastrous and ultimately a great loss.
7. It will cause pain and regret
8. God may shut it down entirely

God used confusion to force mankind to scatter throughout the earth like his original plan intended. Language barrier has caused trouble throughout history but it didn't need to be that way. Rebellion has caused much pain and sorrow throughout history but it was never God's original plan. Examples: Adam and Eve and sin, Hagar and Ishmael, the Israelites not removing the inhabitants of the promise land, the Jews rejecting Jesus... in all these instances God has turned it into good but not without pain. So avoidable.