

GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU

“**For I know the plan I have for you,**’ declares the Lord, **‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’**” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Everyday of our life with the Lord Jesus Christ, we learn new secrets in the kingdom of God that inspire us in our living. These secrets are treasures or precious information hidden from the common people but revealed to the chosen ones who found favour from God. By knowing these secrets and apply them practically in our lives we receive better understanding of our atmosphere, and we gain more wisdom, new privileges, greater access and authority.

God is the Lord of love and compassion. He has created us according to His image, to be like Him in holiness and righteousness. He has created us perfectly and His longing is to see us also in perfect manner and ways. **"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."** (Pslam 139:14) God made every human in the same manner but He has made each one unique from the other. Yet, the Lord has great and equal concern to each and everyone. King David realized this when he spoke to God: **"What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him rule over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the sea."** (Pslam 8:4-8) The Scriptures clearly illustrates the Lord's great concern for us, and how much esteem and honour He gives us. In Genesis, the book of beginning, God gave man the privilege and authority over other creatures; to rule over the work of His hands. God has provided us more than everything we need and can imagine or describe. (For this, let everyone of us give praise to God.)

However, as we knew from Adam people had fallen into sin and lost the image of perfection that God created. Human departed from the presence of God. But God remained faithful. He made a way to restore us toward excellence; He had been working on us continuously, to bring us back to Him and to put us once again in the right path. God, who created all things and who had domain over all things, did not allow man to be separated from Him forever. Thus, filled with love and mercy, He made the final sacrifice when He sent into the world His son Jesus. **"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life."** (John 3: 16) God had done this not only because He wanted His plan to be accomplished, but because His will is perfect. God's plan for us is the best, and whatever the circumstances we found ahead of us, like difficulties, trials and obstacles His plan finally prevails because through Jesus and His death on the cross we can again restore our relation with God. Whenever God reveals his love and compassion to us it convicts us and helps us to repent and to come back to Him. In this way, God's will replaces man's will, and the Lord's perfect plan comes true in saving the humankind from sin and death. God's plan restores us even if we are in the life of sin, if we come to Him in repentance.

The above chosen passage for this message is from the book of Jeremiah that speaks about the plan of God for His chosen people. In those days, the people of God were drawn away from the promise land because of their sin against God; worshipping other gods and bowing down to idols made by their own hands. They forgot their Maker, the Holy One. Therefore their sin had brought them to slavery, living as exiles. They were despised, oppressed, and became second-class citizen in the foreign land. Their sins dragged them down. While they were suffering, they thought God had not only forsaken them but totally had forgotten them.

At that moment of despair in life, without hope, the Lord God interfered and declared: **“For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you, says the Lord your redeemer.”** (Isaiah 54:7-8) In the same way when we think we are walking alone, carrying the burden of life without knowing which direction to go, God may come to us in a simple voice saying:

1. For I know the plans I have for you: God is ready to reveal to us his plan with complete details if we go back to him and ask him to clarify to us. *“God gives His secrets to those who fear Him, to those who obey Him and are willing to do His will.”* Many of us are still wondering around even though we know God through Jesus. Simply, we have no vision to what we need to do next. If we are still roaming around, we must pray earnestly to God: *“Dear Lord, what is the plan that you have for me? Reveal to me in a vision, speak to me in details the things that you want me to do . . .”*

2. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you: Many times we refuse to submit ourselves to God, as if we are afraid that we may get harm. But actually God always choose the best for us: *“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quite water.”* (Psalm 23: 1) So let us not be afraid to go back to Lord. He will never harm us. Let us be like the prodigal son who returned to God, and we will be prosperous. If we lift up our hands for Him to lead, we will receive from him salvation, provision, healing, deliverance and above all wisdom to manage our life.

3. Plans to give you hope: I observe the people who are away from God. They do not have hope. Hope is the glimpse of light at the end of the dark tunnel. Hope is the solution for the unsolved problems. Hope is the impossible becoming possible. Hope is the right direction in the desert. Hope is the stream of water in the wasteland. The plan of God gives us hope when we apply it in our lives. It gives us positive expectations showing new ways and opportunity.

4. Plans to give you future: Many times I hear this word from the people; *“I will do something . . . because there is no future in . . .”* *“ We will move from here . . . because no future to . . .”* I do believe you, too, have heard many saying like this, or you yourself is saying it. But allow me to tell, *“that you will have a good future if you trust in God.”* There is no other means to get a good future but to believe in His son Jesus and accept His good plan for you. *Whatever you do will be a failure apart from the plans of the Lord.*

The Lord is waiting for you to come back to Him as He said, **“Then you call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”** (Jeremiah 29: 12-13)

My dear and beloved: Let us claim this promise of the Lord for ourselves, for our families and our lovely ones as we pray earnestly with confidence on Him who brought us from darkness to life eternal. *“O mighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I come back to You, holding Your promises tight in my heart. Reveal Your good plans for me, O Lord. I commit my life into Your hand, submitting myself to You to walk in Your ways, to accept Your good will and perfect plans so that I may have hope, future and eternal life. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name,” Amen.*