# Life on Purpose Sunday Series

### Life on Purpose: Session 9 | Follow God's Plan

Pastor Dale Campbell

#### I. REVIEW

#### A. Previous Sessions

- 1. Wired for purpose
- 2. How to discover purpose throughout your life
- 3. The important role of fulfillment
  - Everyone needs fulfillment
- 4. What's warring against your purpose?
  - Moses dealt with extreme inferiority
- 5. Distractions
- 6. The necessary sacrifice
- 7. Finding your mentors
- 8. Listening to the right voices

#### II. FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

# A. God has a plan

#### 1. Jer 29:11 NLT

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope"

#### 2. Jer 1:5 NKJV

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations"

- 3. When the Lord gives us the gift of life, He has a plan for our life.
- 4. Many people live their entire life without ever entering into the plan of the Lord.
  - a. The result = their life never reaches the fullest measure of what it could be.
  - b. IF only they had embraced the plan of the Lord, their life would have been fuller/richer
  - c. Our greatest life fullest life most fulfilled life will only occur when we are in the plan of the Lord for our life.

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#### B. The blessing of being in God's plan/purpose

- 1. Prov 19:21
  - NLT "You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail."
  - AMP "Many plans are in a man's mind, But it is the LORD'S purpose for him that will stand (be carried out)"
  - ISV "Many plans occupy the mind of a man, but the LORD's purposes will prevail"
  - a. Many are the plans
  - b. Our life is made up of many plans:
    - Plans for our future
    - Plans for education
    - Plans about our career
    - Plans about our marriage
    - Plans about our kids
    - Plans for retirement
    - Simpler plans: Where we will eat? Where are we going on vacation?
  - YOUR LIFE IS A SERIES OF PLANS
  - YOUR PURPOSE IS CONNECTED TO YOUR PLANS
- 2. While we make many plans throughout life, not all plans prevail
  - a. Prevail = win, succeed
    - Have you ever had a plan to fail?
    - Things didn't work out as you planned
  - b. Sometimes, people think this verse in Proverbs means that no matter what you do in life, the Lord's plan will prevail
    - This isn't always true
  - c. The plan/purpose of the Lord for our life requires our cooperation
  - d. The Lord in His great mercy is patient with us when we are pursuing plans and purposes that even go against His will



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- e. However, God doesn't force His purpose on us
  - He will allow you to have your way
- f. You must choose to cooperation with His plan

# **NOTE:** Personal thoughts on this scripture:

- Many of my plans struggle to make it
- Some of my plans will fail
- Some of my plans will succeed to a specific level of success
- **HOWEVER,** if I discover the plan/purpose of God and cooperate with it get in it **THAT PLAN/PURPOSE** will have the **BLESSING** of God on it
- It will **WIN/OVERCOME/SUCCEED**
- Beyond natural means supernaturally
- When **MY PLAN** is **HIS PLAN**, it is destined for success!
  - g. If you want your plan to really succeed, get in alignment with God's purpose/plan for your life
  - h. **Psalm 138:8 ESV**

"The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me"

# C. How do I make the Lord's purpose/plan mine?

- 1. Always honor and esteem the Lord regarding your plans
  - a. Have you prayed about your future?
  - b. Have you prayed about your plans?
  - c. Have you prayed about who you will marry?
  - d. Have you prayed about where you will live?
  - e. Have you prayed about your career path?

**NOTE:** If you have not consulted God in prayer about your plans, you have not esteemed His will.



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- IS WHAT HE DESIRES FOR YOUR LIFE IMPORTANT?
- DO YOU REALLY VALUE WHAT HE VALUES?

### 2. The example of Esau

#### a. Heb 12:16-17 HCSB

"And make sure that there isn't any immoral or irreverent person like Esau, who sold his birthright in exchange for one meal For you know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected because he didn't find any opportunity for repentance, though he sought it with tears"

- b. Esau was the first-born son of Isaac:
  - As the firstborn son, he received the blessing of the first born
  - He would also be in line for God's covenant: Abraham >> Isaac >> Esau JACOB
- c. Esau's God-given purpose failed. Why? Because he didn't reverence or value the plan of God for his life
- d. He didn't cooperate with God's plan:
  - He lightly esteemed it
  - He didn't place adequate value on it
  - He made quick decisions to gratify the flesh without considering the cost
- e. He sought repentance
  - There was a time Esau sought to change his mind, but it was too late
- f. Make sure you embrace your season. *There are times when opportunity comes*

NOTE: Grace allows us to miss it and get back into the plan of God.

HOWEVER, when you override grace, eventually God will allow you to have your own way. It is possible to override grace until you cannot completely reverse the outcome.



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- 3. Basic ways you can embrace God's plan for your life:
  - a. Always acknowledge Him:

#### **Prov 3:6**

- ESV "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths."
- NLT "Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take"

### **QUESTION: DID YOU SEEK HIM?**

- Plans that succeeded?
  - Plans that failed?
- b. Be determined to obey Him:
  - Follow His instructions
  - Follow His peace in your heart
  - Say yes to what He says yes to
  - Say no to what He says no to

**EXAMPLE:** "It doesn't matter if I am out of the will of God or not. He has to bless me." >>> **NO!!! This is not correct.** 

- c. If you miss Him, be quick to repent:
  - Do not delay repentance
  - Delayed repentance may result in lost opportunities:
    - Some doors will be closed
    - Some opportunities will be filled by others
  - Be quick to repent:
    - o David was always quick to repent
    - Saul made excuses



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- d. Always have an attitude of thanksgiving for the blessings of God in your life
  - If you accomplish anything great >> be thankful
  - Thanksgiving acknowledges that God is responsible for your success
  - Thanksgiving keeps pride out!
  - Thanksgiving keeps you in the flow of HIS blessing
  - Remember: had it not been for God!!!
- e. Always keep HIM first not the assignment first!
  - God values your relationship <u>with</u> Him above your work for Him.
  - Many have failed doing a good work because they did not stay in intimacy with Him
  - Nothing replaces prayer word time church fellowship

**REMEMBER:** HIS PLAN GOES <u>BEYOND</u> THIS LIFE.