

## Lesson 2: God's Plan for Your Life

### Intro

When old, many people look back at their lives and soberingly ask: "That was it?" To ask that question at the end of a lifetime is a great tragedy! When you choose a life of discipleship under Jesus Christ you will not ask that question because God has a plan for your life. He will use you in a special way. When we discover and live by this plan, God gives meaning to our lives and makes us happy. Discipleship is all about discovering and living by His plan.



God has a plan for your life because He knows you as no one else. How do the following verses describe how well God knows you?

Psalm 139:1-6: \_\_\_\_\_

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Jeremiah 1:4-5: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God KNOWS you. He knows your innermost parts. He understands your worries, needs, joys, and hopes. In short, He knows absolutely everything about you! This is good news because God is a good Father and not a strict authoritarian one who is waiting for opportunities to dole out punishment! Even before He created you He had a plan for your life.



What plan does God have for your life?

Jeremiah 29:11-14: \_\_\_\_\_

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Jeremiah 33:3: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Discover God's plan for your life!

God doesn't just pass you by as if you were just one of a million faces in the crowd. He loves you more than you can comprehend and He has a personal plan for your life. To discover and live by His plan is the purpose of our lives. That is why God created us and gave us the gift of life. His plan for us is the greatest discovery we can experience! To live according to His plan is the greatest success that we could ever have! The following texts should help you discover the plan that God has for you.

**Plan #1: God wants you to find Him.**



**Acts  
17:26-27**

Why did God create humans and give them the gift of life?

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What promise does God give us here?

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God gave us life so that we could find Him. That is the purpose of our lives! When we live selfishly, we live in vain! But God tells us that He is close to us. So close, that every person who earnestly searches can find Him.

**Plan #2: God wishes to have an intimate relationship with you.**



**Hosea  
2:19-20**

What does God use to describe His relationship with His people?

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**Jeremiah  
31:3**

Why does God draw you to Him?

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God wants to have an intimate relationship with you. His desire is that you will answer His call of love. He couldn't have used a more profound example to describe the kind of relationship He wishes to have with us than the marriage covenant. God seeks you out because He loves you. He draws you to Himself so that you can respond to His love.

**Plan #3: God deeply desires to forgive your sins.**



**Isaiah  
44:22**

What does God promise? What invitation does He give us?

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Our sins are like thick clouds that separate us from God! God wants a relationship without obstacles. He wants to remove the guilt and sin that destroys us. So He invites us to come to Him. Oh, how deep is His desire to forgive our sins and to save us!

**Plan #4: God wants to change your character.**



What gift does God want to give us?

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**Ezekiel  
36:26-27**

What kind of person does God want to make us?

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How does God want to change us?

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**Romans  
8:29**

Jesus is not only interested in forgiving your sins. He wants to change you from the inside out. He promises you a new heart that is filled with His Spirit so that you can be in the likeness of His image. God wants to show the whole universe what He can do with people who fully surrender to Him. He wants to make you a living example of His grace.

**Plan #5: God wants to give you a fulfilled life now.**



What does Jesus want to give us?

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**John 10:10**

Jesus promises us an abundant life. This does not mean a life full of riches, power, and honor. That kind of life is only a cheap substitute offered by Satan so that people will pass up the real life that only Jesus gives. Of course, Jesus can bless us with riches, power, and honor if He knows we can use it for His glory. But more important, Jesus wants to fill our lives with things that will prepare us for an eternity with Him. He wants to give us a joy that grows by serving others and can only be found in a relationship with Him .

**Plan #6: God wants to use you to bring others to Him.**



How does Jesus want to use you in this world?

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**Matthew  
5:13-16**



How does Jesus want to influence the lives of others through you?

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**Mark 1:17**

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God needs people in this world who point others to Him. People who do not live for themselves but for His glory and for the good of others. Jesus wants you to be salt and a light in this world. He wants to make you into a person who wins others for Him and His kingdom.

**Plan #7: God wants you to grow in your faith.**



How does Paul describe the experience that God wishes for each of His disciples?

**Philippians  
1:9-11**

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God does not want your Christian walk to become stagnant. Life with God means growth that never ends, even into eternity. God wants your love and knowledge to grow more and more. He even has experiences waiting for us that will leave us amazed.

**Plan #8: God wants you to live forever.**



What is Jesus' wish for your future?

**John  
6:39-40**

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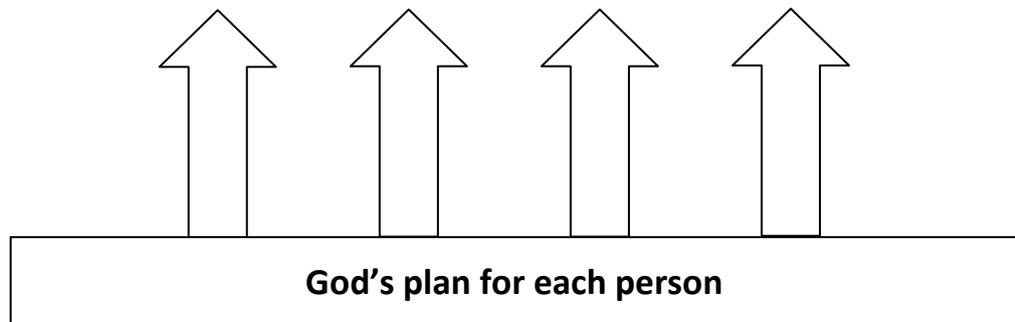
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Solomon wrote: "He put eternity in your hearts." God placed the desire for life in each one of us. Obviously, He would not have done that if He did not want to make it a reality. Jesus said that it is God's plan to grant us everlasting life. It doesn't matter if we die or if we are alive with the blessed multitude when Jesus comes again. He wants us to live with Him forever.



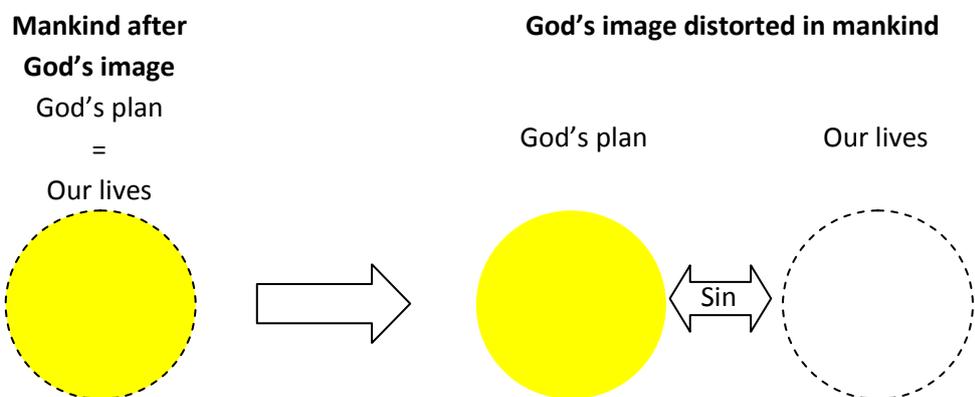
God's plan for our lives is more than we can imagine. These eight points definitely can't describe everything that God has in mind for us because His plan is much greater. Let's just say that these eight points are a general plan that applies to every Christian. But don't forget, God also has a special plan for your life. However, this plan can only become reality when you allow Him to implement His general plan in your life. The general plan is a foundation that God builds every person's life on.

## God's special plan for your life

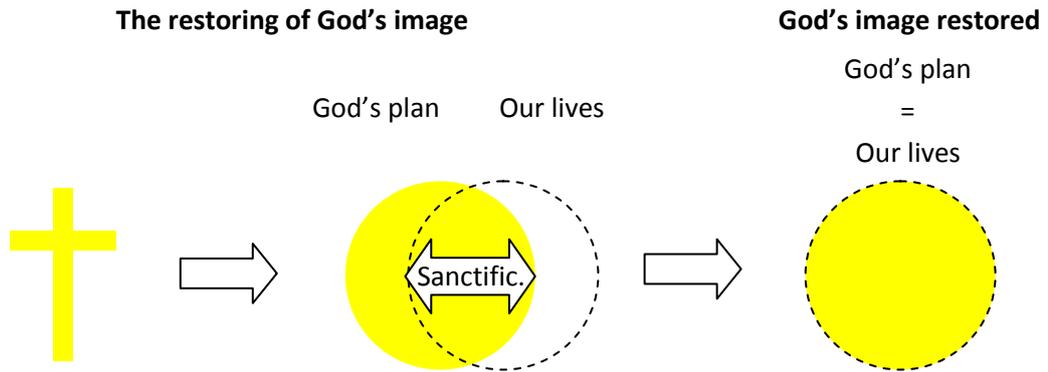


This idea is very important! When we want to experience God's special plan, we must first ask ourselves to what extent God has been able to lay this foundation in our lives. If the above-mentioned eight points have not become the foundation of our lives, how can we expect God to reveal to each one of us His special plan?

Mankind was created in God's image. Our first parents lived within the plan of God until sin entered and changed the relation between God and us. Sin pulled us out of God's plan.



Christ came to reach us where we were. He became like us, so that we could become like Him. He wants to change us until His will becomes our will and we are willing to do things that will please Him. This is how He restores God's image in us (Colossians 3:10). The Bible calls this process sanctification. When Jesus comes again, we will be living according to His plan. His image will be perfectly restored in us and we will be able to see Him face to face.



Sanctification is the process of God changing us so that we live according to His plan. When we surrender our lives to Him, He changes our thoughts, desires, plans, and goals. This is exactly what discipleship is all about. We discover God's plan and align our life within its boundaries.

**Quote #1** "And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses." (*The Desire of Ages*, pg. 668)

God's way is not always the easiest. You will have trials and temptations because you choose to live in God's plan. But the life that God has prepared for you is of an endless worth and He will give you the strength to succeed! His plan is always better than any other plan that you could come up with on your own! Look at life from the perspective of eternity!



How can you respond to God's plan for your life?

Psalm 37:5-7: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A person's response to God's intentions is to have faith. Jesus often said to the people who came and asked Him for help: "Let it be according to your faith!" Only when we trust God and allow Him to lead us step by step, can His plan for our lives become a reality. Trust God! His plan is always the best!

