

When God Changes Your Plan

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Introduction

We all have ambitions in life. We set goals and objectives to accomplish them.



In our minds, all our desires and wants are legitimate and beneficial. We make careful plans to achieve them.



It is our human desire to improve
our...

Careers

Relationships

Well being



We want to...

Business
Expansion

Promotion

Financial
Security

Marriage

House
and Car

Travel



There are many things we want to achieve
in life. All our plans are good because
they make us accomplish more and live
happier lives.



We do not welcome disruptions in our plans.
When our well-thought out plans are
interrupted, we feel agitated and
frustrated.



We want our plans to be smooth sailing -
without surprises and distractions.



God also has a plan. And God's plan involves you. In fact, the whole creation is about you!



You are the crowning glory of God's creation
and the center of His plan. It is God's
wish and desire that our plans are aligned
with His plan.



Therefore, if you want to make a plan, make
sure your plan is aligned with God's plan.



God may change your plans if they are
misaligned with His.



Proverbs 16:1-3

“We may make our plans, but God has the last word. You may think everything you do is right, but the Lord judges your motives. Ask the Lord to bless your plans, and you will be successful in carrying them out.”



Watches Over You

Do you believe God watches over you?

Do you believe He knows what you have done and is now doing?

Do you believe God is somehow involved in your life?

Do you believe He is concerned with you and is He guiding you in some mysterious ways?



Psalm 121:5

“The LORD watches over you—the LORD is
your shade at your right hand.”



Now, let us consider what Jesus said
concerning this.



Matthew 6:25-34

(25) “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”

(26) Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?



Matthew 6:25-34

(27) Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

(28) “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

(29) Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.



Matthew 6:25-34

(30) If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

(31) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'



Matthew 6:25-34

(32) For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

(33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

(34) Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.



Matthew 10:26-31

(26) “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

(27) What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.



Matthew 10:26-31

(28) Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

(29) Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.



Matthew 10:26-31

(30) And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

(31) So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.



Further, Jesus said before you ask in prayer,
the Father already knows what you need.



Matthew 6:6-8

(6) But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



Matthew 6:6-8

- (7) And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.
- (8) Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.



Therefore, God knows the essential things
He wants to know about us. And, more
importantly God knows whether we have
been good or bad; especially when we
come before His judgment seat.



Ecclesiastes 12:14

(14) For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.



Indeed, God knows what is in our hearts.



God's Plan

Believing that God is concerned about you and is guiding you in some way is a good start to today's discussion.



In Jeremiah 29:11 God said;

‘For I know the plans I have for you,’
declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future.’



Again in Psalm 40:5

“Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.”



God has a plan for us. Sometimes, God needs to re-arrange our plans to make them line up with His plan in order for us to achieve our destiny.



Here are a few Biblical examples where God changed the plans of individuals:



1. Joseph

He was the apple of his father's eyes. Out of envy his brothers sold him into slavery.



At seventeen years old he landed in Egypt
and was later jailed on a false charge.



Genesis 37:2-3

(2) This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

(3) Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him.



Genesis 37:28

(28) So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.



Then, he rose to become the chancellor of
Egypt; second only to the king.



God called him at a very young age and his life changed dramatically. He eventually realized that God used him to save his family from famine.



Genesis 50:15-20

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

(15) When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"



Genesis 50:15-20

(16) So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died:

(17) ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.



Genesis 50:15-20

(18) His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

(19) But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?”

(20) You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.



2. Moses

He was royalty. He lived a charmed life. He grew up in the palaces of the king as a prince of Egypt.



Then one day, his life changed. God changed his life by revealing to him who he really was – a Hebrew by birth.



From a prince he became a fugitive. His wandering took him to Midian, to the household of Jethro, where he became a shepherd.



Exodus 2:11-17

Moses Flees to Midian

(11) One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.



Exodus 2:11-17

(12) Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

(13) The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?”



Exodus 2:11-17

(14) The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.”

(15) When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.



Exodus 2:11-17

(16) Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock.

(17) Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.



God's plan was to use him to lead the
Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised
Land.



Hebrews 11:24-26

(24) By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

(25) He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.



Hebrews 11:24-26

(26) He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.



3. David

A young shepherd whom God made king
over the nation of Israel.



He honed the skill of battle by combating the wild and fierce animals of the field to protect his flock.



God handpicked David to be king.



1 Samuel 16:11-13

(11) So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered.

“He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

(12) So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”



1 Samuel 16:11-13

(13) So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.



Out of jealousy King Saul hunted David like a criminal. David, in spite of his failing, is a man after God's own heart.



4. The Apostles

From being tax collectors and fishermen,
God called them to become fishers of
men.



Matthew 4:18-22

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

(18) As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

(19) “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”



Matthew 4:18-22

(20) At once they left their nets and followed him.

(21) Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them,

(22) and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.



God changed their career plan. Most did not know their roles until the day they received the Holy Spirit.



They were to be witnesses of Christ and His resurrection. All were martyred for the gospel with exception of John.



Luke 21:12-13

(12) “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name.

(13) And so you will bear testimony to me.



5. Paul

An avid persecutor of the church. His life changed when God confronted him on his way to Damascus.



God blinded him for three (3) days to
emphasize his spiritual blindness.



Acts 9:1-9

Saul's Conversion

- (1) Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest
- (2) and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.



Acts 9:1-9

(3) As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

(4) He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”



Acts 9:1-9

(5) “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

(6) “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”



Acts 9:1-9

(7) The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.

(8) Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.

(9) For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.



Eventually, Paul became the most ardent witness of Christ. He wrote half of the books of the New Testament and was the Apostle of Christ to the gentiles.



1 Corinthians 15:8-10

(8) and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

(9) For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

(10) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.



When we look at each of the instances carefully, you will find commonalities in all the examples; they are:

1. Something strange happened to them;
2. They embraced the change of plan with faith; and
3. God's plan revealed itself.



1. Some Strange Things Happened to Them

At the on-set no one knew what was going on. Everyone thought something strange and peculiar had happened to him.



One was sold by his own brothers into slavery, another ran away for murder, the other got blind, yet another hunted as a criminal, and others (Apostles) became wanderers.



None knew what was happening to their lives. Sometimes, it felt like a bad dream. Not one of the individuals knew God was changing their plans.



1 Peter 4:12-13

Suffering for Being a Christian

(12) Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

(13) But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.



2. They Embraced the Change of Plan with Faith

Embrace the change and see God's hand in
the process.



When, God called them and changed their plans none of them complained or questioned God.



They all faithfully followed God. Their faith was strong because they knew God was with them.



Hebrews 10:36

(36) You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.



God's Plan Reveals Itself

Eventually, each person came to know the reason why God changed the plan.



For Joseph, it was to save his family from
famine.



For Moses, it was to liberate his people from
the bondage of Egypt.



For David, it was to set up a kingdom and
royal lineage to Christ.



For the Apostles, it was to become
witnesses of Christ.



And for Paul, it was to become the Apostle
to the gentiles.



They were able to see God's hand in the purpose of their new career and they understood why God changed their plans.



1 Peter 5:6

(6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.



Look at Your Life

How about us? Do we see God's hand in our lives?



We know that God does not micromanage our lives. He does not tell or force us to do certain things at certain times.



God is not in control of everything we do or
everything that happens to us.



If you get a stomachache because you ate
some spoiled food, I am sure it is not
God's intent.



God leads and guides us to the right path
through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.



2 Peter 3:9 states that “God wills that none would perish but all would come to repentance.”



God wants us to be holy and to attain salvation. God can redirect your life and point you towards the right path and to steps that lead to the truth.



God's ultimate aim and goal is to bring you
to salvation in the Kingdom of God.



Proverbs 16:9

“In his heart a man plans his course, but the
LORD determines his steps.”



God does not control your life.



He may change and redirect your plans in order to lead you and guide you to the truth. After that, the decision to follow or not to follow is up to us.



At the final reckoning, we still make the all-important decision about faithfulness.



Not even those of Joseph, Moses, David,
the Apostles or even Paul. God re-
arranged their plans and pointed them to a
new direction.



God has no desire to control our live. He
wants sons and daughters, not puppets.
We are not puppets.



Take a look at your life. Has any strange
thing happened to you lately?



Of course, yes! You are here today!



You may think that you read the advertisement in the newspaper the other day and you decided to be here today.



You might think this is a normal, non-
eventful happening.



Maybe it is worthwhile for you to re-think the events.



Let us rewind and reconsider the events of the past few days:

1. Do you read the newspaper everyday?
2. Do you read that section of the newspaper regularly?
3. What made you read the newspaper that day?
4. What went into your mind when you read the advertisement?
5. What made you interested?



6. What made you decide to attend the Bible Study?
7. You may not full appreciate the reason why you are here; nonetheless, you are here for the Bible study.
8. If you think it strange and peculiar to be here today; think again!
9. If you like what you hear and feel good about being here, think some more!
10. Did you come on your own will? Maybe you are here for a reason. Maybe God directed your steps to come here today.



Summation

God has a plan for you.

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



What is this hope and future? Your hope
and ours is to become children of God.



2 Corinthians 6:18

(18) And,

“I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.”



If your plan does not align with God's plan,
He will try to re-arrange it to align with His
plan.



It is never going to be easy or be smooth sailing at first. It may at first feel strange and cause disorientation.



But the reward is out of this world - to be
heirs of God and co-heirs with God.



Paul has this encouragement in
Romans 8:28-30.

(28) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



Romans 8:28-30

(29) For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

(30) And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.



God is changing your plan. He is aligning yours to His. Your life will change if you find the truth and become faithful to Him.



When you do and when you join us; your life
will change.

