

# The Plans of the Lord

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- I. **God has wonderful plans for all who will follow Him. “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’” (Jeremiah 29:11).**
  - A. Experiencing life to the full (abundance) (John 10:10)
  - B. God’s plans to bless us include every part of our lives (Deuteronomy 28:2-8, 11-13).
  
- II. **“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans” (Proverbs 16:3, 9).**
  - A. Humble dependence on God to receive plans, and dependence on God to fulfill plans bring grace from God (James 4:13-16).
  - B. God is jealous over you. Committing your plans to Him is important. “God opposes the proud, but shows favor to the humble” (James 4:4-6).
  
- III. **The first step toward committing your plans to the Lord is prayer. Most good plans start with inquiring of the Lord (Jeremiah 29:11-13).**
  - A. Rebekah inquired of the Lord to understand the destinies of her children (Genesis 25:22-23).
  - B. David, the man after God’s own heart, was constantly inquiring of the Lord in very practical circumstances (Psalm 27:1-4; I Sam. 23:1-2; 30:8; II Sam. 5:19, 22-23).
  - C. David’s predecessor, Saul, died from being unfaithful and inquiring of a medium and not the Lord (I Chronicles 10:13-14).
  - D. Jeremiah calls Israel’s leaders “senseless” (stupid), because they did not inquire of the Lord (Jeremiah 10:21).
  - E. The foundation of our walk with the Lord is asking, seeking, and knocking (Matthew 7:7-11).
  
- IV. **“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails” (Proverbs 19:21). “The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out” (Proverbs 20:5).**
  - A. Forming bad alliances for help must be avoided at all costs (Isaiah 30:1-3).
  - B. The patience and perseverance required to gain God’s wisdom is well worth the wait (James 1:5-7).
  - C. Above all we need a paradigm of the goodness of the Lord (Isaiah 30:19-21; Psalm 27:13-14; Romans 8:31-32).

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March 2 & 3, 2019*