



L.E.A.N. Letter

"There Is No 'Plan B'!" (Part 1 of 3) ©

WHAT IS A "PLAN"...

The (worldly) definition of planning is to have a set of actions that have been thought of as a way to do or achieve something; something **that a person intends to do**. Life is FULL of plans and planning. Always having a plan is the quintessential (worldly) element of life that is ingrained in the minds of most from the beginning of early childhood.

It is believed by many that without a plan, you will go nowhere in life. Is this really true? If you're living in the world, perhaps yes, since you're living by a different set of standards. However, is this really true (or even possible) if you are a follower of Jesus Christ? When you are full of the Holy Spirit, and obedient to the Lord's will for your life, do you really believe that you have your own plan(s)? "If a man's steps are directed by the Lord, how then can anyone understand their own way" (**Proverbs 20:24**)? So, if you are not meant to understand your own way when you're following Jesus, then how does the personal planning process work (without your complete surrender to the Lord as to what those plans include)?

When you follow Jesus, planning is a simple equation:

HIS PLAN(S) - YOUR PLAN(S) = THE LORD'S WILL

When you are living life in the Spirit, do you really believe (like the worldly definition above states) that YOU really "do" anything? Once saved, have you renewed your mind that it is not you, but the Holy Spirit working through you that does all of the "do"ing? Hence **Galatians 3:3**. (**Note:** There may be moments where the willful sin-nature of your flesh may override your obedience to the Lord, but this should never be the majority of the time when you seek true partnership with Jesus, which comes through having a solid relationship with Him.)

Through salvation, that means you have "married" your spirit to Jesus Christ through the vow of these (2) steps: You have **1) Confessed (with your mouth) that Jesus is Lord, and 2) Believe (in your heart) that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9)**. So, through your "marriage", you have become one with Jesus and His Holy Spirit. Once this commitment was made, there is no longer such a thing as having your OWN plan going forward. One may like to think so, but that's not how marriage is intended to work (neither physically nor spiritually). It's now meant to be an inseparable union between you and your spouse so that you can function in a loving partnership. EVERYTHING between both parties becomes one. The same is true in your "marriage" with Jesus, as the plan(s) for your life are now one with His. He has one purpose for your life that only YOU were created and destined to fulfill, and it will ONLY be His Spirit working through you that will get you where you need to go. So, surrendering to His plan is critical for the journey that awaits you, because you absolutely cannot do it without His divine aid!

The Lord's plan(s) for your life is/are comprised of the big and small moments that shape who you are while lovingly molding you into His likeness. The little plans may consist of going to the grocery store, attending a meeting, preparing for weekend events, etc. The bigger plans may be marriage, having children, going on the trip of a lifetime, retiring, preparing for the next life, etc. (**Note:** Regardless of whether it is a little/big plan, your life can change in any given moment. So, stay in the mindset that your trip to the grocery store can be just as life-changing, and significant, as getting married. The unknown of the Lord's plans are exciting, yet sometimes unexpected and uncomfortable, which requires every bit of focus no matter where you are or what you are doing. Every little/big plan has great purpose, so await the presence of the Holy Spirit wherever you go.)

Renew your mind that any statement(s) of planning must be followed by speaking words such as "Lord willing" (**James 4:15**). This is you recognizing that your hours/days are never promised, nor are the plans that you think YOU are making. When you speak words that give the Lord the will to do whatever is best, because He is all-knowing, it's important to embrace the reality of what you are saying in that moment. Though this is an easy statement of acknowledgement, these two words are more powerful than you may realize. It's a statement of FULL surrender to the Lord's plan, despite your desires, since you trust that He knows what is best for your life. This also falls in alignment with the first vow of salvation (as stated above).

Once you have fully embraced and surrendered to the fact that Jesus is THE plan-maker for your life, it's a time to trust, have faith, and let go. Now, the question is, are you okay with the plan that the Lord has for your life despite what you believe you are entitled to have, receive, and/or experience? This plan is the reason you were born so that you can fulfill your destiny (in Jesus) to either be used for common purposes or in special ways (**Romans 9:21**). Either way, the plan for your life is to advance the Lord's Kingdom while serving your time on earth, and EVERYONE's plan has purpose and meaning.

So, are you all-in on the Lord's plan for your life... "Plan A"... no matter what? To be all-in, are you willing to put your personal desires and comfort aside, and trust in the Lord? You must be solid in your belief about this before continuing your journey with Jesus to prevent any unnecessary turbulence while serving as His ready, willing, and open vessel. Jesus awaits you to come to this resolve in your heart. So, time is of essence so that your journey with Him can REALLY begin!

(PLEASE READ "THERE IS NO 'PLAN B'" -PART 2, WHICH WILL BE POSTED SHORTLY...LORD WILLING!)

~ These inspired words are intended to strengthen the body of Christ so that we can eliminate "obesity" of our spirit (unnecessary confusion and distraction), and to set ourselves apart from the world so that we can stand out as the mighty warriors we are called to be In Jesus' name!
(These inspired messages/teachings are never to substitute the pure Word of God found in The Holy Bible.) ~

May you be blessed, and may you "Live L.E.A.N. (Loving Everyone As Neighbors)...Live Long!"

~Scripture passages are cited using the NIV Holy Bible.~