

#29 "Purpose and Plan"

1 2 Thessalonians 1:2-3, 2Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

2 Eph 1:15, 15Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

3 Col 3:12 12Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. 18Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

4 1 Pet 3:8-11 8Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

5 Pure thoughts create an atmosphere of holiness and sobriety, which crystallize into habits of sanctification and self control, which further solidify into circumstances of rest and peace.

6 1Thes 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Rom 6:17-19 17But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. 19I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

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9 2 Cor 7:1Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

10 Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

11 1 Tim 1:2-3 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

12 Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

13 Positive thoughts, along with thoughts of courage and decisiveness, creates within you an atmosphere of assurance, and steadfastness, which will bring forth circumstances of success, and freedom.

14 Eph 3:11-12 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: 12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

15 Heb 10:35-36 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

16 Heb 10:22-24 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

17 Gentle and forgiving thoughts create an atmosphere of love and trust which solidify into protective and preservative circumstances, and crystallize into circumstances which allows you to minister help and forgiveness to others, which allows those affected to enter into an atmosphere of hope and reconciliation.

18 Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

19 Col 3:12-14 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

20 Luke 7:40-47 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. 41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? 43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. 44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. 49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? 50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

21 If you keep sowing the same particular seed thoughts, be it good or bad, it cannot help but to create an atmosphere around you which will also affect your character and the circumstances in which you live.

22 Now a garden is a place or a plot of ground that you specifically set aside for growing things that you like, whether for food or for the beauty of just looking at it, such as flowers and roses, etc. A garden is a place where you sow seeds, and you come to water and cultivate those seeds, because you have a purpose in mind. And if we do not cultivate our garden, then other seeds that fall into our garden will compete with the specific thing we want to harvest. Therefore, we must cultivate the seeds which we want and root out those things we do not wish to come to harvest.

23 Now we don't go through all that work in taking care of a garden just for the sheer enjoyment turning over soil & breaking rocks, if we did we, then prison would be fun. But we must have a PURPOSE.

24 A garden has to be plotted out, and there must be a PLAN in your mind as to how you would like to see your garden turn out. For if there is no plan, you will have an awful time trying to harvest what you sowed. Could you imagine planting a garden where you go out and grab a handful of carrot seeds and you just toss them up in the air, not really caring where they land. Try grabbing a bag of corn seeds and toss them out onto the ground. Then repeat the same process with watermelon seeds, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, peas, and whatever else you would like to harvest. I imagine the sowing might be easy, but come harvest time, you're going to have a real mess trying to sort out just what you sowed.

25 And yet this is the way many of us go about our daily lives and especially our spiritual lives. Can you imagine someone trying to store up earthly treasures without a plan. And yet that is exactly what we do with storing up Heavenly treasure.

26 Matt 6:19-20 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

27 Many of us struggle because we have not learned this first principle of sowing and reaping. We too often look at the man who is wealthy and we say, "he's a crook and that is why he is wealthy". Now, that may be true in part, but the reason that man is wealthy is because he has applied a principle of sowing and reaping which many of us are not willing to do. He had a plan to gain wealth and he was dedicated to that plan and so his whole life became structured around that that plan, and therefore he reaped what he sowed.

28 I have no jealousy for one minute of those who have worked very hard for what they have. They deserve it. But, I do feel sorry for them in the same way in which I feel sorry for the poor farmer who loses his crops to hail or tornado. Many of them, if not the majority of them who are very wealthy, have stored up their treasure in the wrong place. Because they'll only be able to enjoy what they have sown for a season. Therefore, I want what will not become rusted, and moth eaten. I want that which will truly stay with me all throughout Eternity. And Jesus told us if we "seek ye first the Kingdom of God, then all these things shall be added us." Now what things shall be added?

29 Well, let's turn in our Bibles to Matt 6:25 - 34 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31Therefore take no thought, saying,

What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

30 Now, I want you to notice that we are told to take no thought concerning certain things. Now He is not telling us that these things are not important to us, but that our thought pertaining to these things needs to be directed, not at those things, but at the Kingdom of God from whence cometh all good things. In other words, Jesus is telling them that their focus needs to be on the right thing. This is the same principle we see in dealing with the poor in very backward countries. The people are starving to death, and we feel sorry for them, but if we just feed them, then they will always be dependent upon us. But if we teach them how to sow and reap, then they will learn how to provide for themselves. Therefore, what we are looking at is having the right focus. He said take no thought for these specific things. Take no thought with just the eating, or just the specific piece of clothing that you need, but focus on where those things come from and then you will always have plenty. Learn to sew and you shall also reap.

31 2 Cor 9:7-10 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: 9(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. 10Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

32 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, [so let him give]{so let him sow}; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. {This reminds me here of the man whose family had a poor crop, and they were facing a harsh winter. They had just a bag of grain left over from the poor harvest and the children cried out to eat it. The father said, no for if we do then surely we shall die. They made it through the winter, but it was a real struggle, but when the spring came forth the father planted his seeds and they brought forth a bountiful harvest. }Now, Paul continues, [Amplified] And God who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your resources for sewing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness and charity, and thus you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous, and your generosity as it is administered by us will bring forth thanksgiving to God.

33 And so, you see, we must have the proper focus and the proper plan if we are to bring forth out of the garden of our mind, a harvest of Eternal blessing. We are promised that God, who gave us the seed to begin with will also multiply that seed as we sow properly. [NIV] Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

34 We know the seed came forth from Him and therefore it already has in it everything that we will ever need for living and for bringing forth a Character that is in His Image.

35 2 Peter 1: 2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

36 Isaiah 60:21 "Thy people shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified." Can you see God's purpose in His planting?

37 Isaiah 61:3 "that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.. Therefore the purpose of being planted by God is to bring forth His Glory, which is His thoughts in an expressed form.

38 In Eph 1: 2-5 We see that we were in Christ before the world was framed, therefore we are a seed, that was in Him. And are told here that while we were still in Him we were "Blessed with all Spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Places in Christ." And then he goes on to tell us that in order to bring forth these seeds that were in Him, He had to have a plan. In verse 5 we are told that He pre-planned for us to come forth to the adoption of children to Himself. And this is according to His Will or plan, which He further elucidates in verses [10-11] where he tells us that it will happen according to His Purpose (Plan).

39 Therefore, I hope you see the importance of having a purpose or plan for every seed thought that we want to bring forth to harvest. In order to reap we must not only sow, but we must learn how to sow as well. Because you can not sow just any which way and expect to reap a harvest that is orderly.

40 Isaiah 61:11 "For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord will cause righteousness to spring forth in the presence of all nations".

41 Now the garden is laid out with an order to it. As we see in Genesis 1:11 Everything will bring forth after it's own kind, or nature. But even before we see God laying out this law of reproduction, he first brought together everything that was of like kind, and then the law of reproduction was given.

42 Notice in Gen 1:9-10 that everything was gathered together with like kind before the law of reproduction was introduced into His Creation. Therefore, if we are to be able to bring forth from the garden of our mind in the same way that God has brought forth from His own mind, we must also follow his Example. Therefore, we must have a purpose and plan to the things which we wish to sow and harvest. Our gardens must have an order to it if we expect to reap a good and profitable harvest. Otherwise you will spend all of your time just trying to sort out what it is that you have in your garden to begin with. As long as our thoughts are without purpose, they are allowed to just drift aimlessly and will never bring forth any fruit. Thoughts which have no purpose fall easily to the anxieties of life, and pleasure seeking and other things which so easily rob you of victory of Peace and Grace, and lead you to a life of weakness and self pity. Therefore, we need to have purpose for our thoughts, and once we have purposeful thinking, we should set out to accomplish what we purpose.

43 In order to do this, our purpose should be that which brings together our thoughts with our actions, tying together our body, soul and spirit into one energized being with one focus.

44 We should make this purpose our supreme duty, and we should devote ourselves to the fulfillment of this purpose, not allowing our thoughts to wander away into ephemeral fancies, longings, and imaginings.

45 "This is the Royal road to self control and true concentration of thought. And even if you fail again and again to accomplish your purpose, as you surely will until your weakness is overcome, the strength of character gained from this will be the real measure of success, and this will form a new starting point for future power and triumph. Just look at Thomas Edison, He tried nearly 10,000 times to invent a workable light bulb, and finally he did it. But what if he had stopped after 9,999 tries? Edison might have been [dis] couraged, at the ending of each day, but every time he got back up, the [dis] just flew away.

46 The word discourage comes from two words which means to loose your courage. Don't be discouraged, be brave, be thoughtful and have a purpose in your heart that whatsoever you set your mind to do, so shall you finish. after all, are we not made in our Fathers image? And is not He the Author and Finisher or our Faith. Did not He say, "That which I have began in you I will perform it even unto the end"?

47 2 Tim 1:12 "For I know whom, I have believed, and am persuaded, that He is Able, to keep that which I've committed, unto Him against that Day.

48 From the message, [Serpents seed]Brother Branham said, A little poem, that used to help me so much when I was a kid, goes something like this: There was a noble Roman, In the Roman Emperor's days; Who heard a coward croaker, Before the castle say: Oh, it's safe in such a Fir tree, There's no one who can shake it. 'Oh, no,' said the hero, 'I'll find a way or make it.'

49 And again from [Jehovah Jireh] he said, "When you begin to seek the flower bed of ease, you're on your road out. I like that old poem: Must I be carried home to heaven on a flower bed of ease, While others fought to win the prize, And sailed through bloody seas? No, I must fight, if I must reign, Increase my courage, Lord. And again another Poem he told us goes like this, A man of words and not of deed, Is like a garden full of weeds. And that is exactly what I have been trying to bring to us in these message of the garden of the mind. What have we in our garden tonight, thoughts with Purpose or weeds.

50 [Mighty Conqueror] Standing sometime ago, I was in the Westminster Abbey at London, England, and I seen the form of the poet that wrote the Psalm of Life, Longfellow, and I thought of his poem, Tell me not in mournful numbers, Life is just an empty dream! (Just eat, drink and be merry.) And the soul is dead that slumbers, And things are not what they seem. Life is real! And life is earnest! And the grave is not it's goal; Dust thou art, and to dust returnest, Was not spoken of the soul. Lives of great men all remind us, that we can make our life sublime, With partings they have left behind us, Footprints on the sands of time. Footprints, that perhaps another, Sailing over life's solemn main, For forlong and shipwreck brother, Deeds shall take heart again. Let us be up then and doing, With a heart wherein we strive, Be not like dumb driven cattle, be a hero in this your life. and from [Go Wake Jesus] he said, Be not like dumb, driven cattle, have to be drove into anything. Let's believe, be a hero in the strife,

51 Isaiah 58:11 "And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose water s fail not."

52 People who have no central purpose in life fall easy prey to petty anxieties, phobias, and cares of this life, and it leads to self-pitying, all of which are indications of weakness, which weaknesses lead, just as surely as deliberately planned sins; to failure, unhappiness, and loss. For weakness will not endure in a world where the devil goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Just as in nature, the wolf-pack usually looks for the weakest lamb, or the one straying from the flock, so too does the devil look for the weakest of the flock to devour.

53 Therefore you should have a purpose in your heart, and you should set your sights on obtaining that purpose. You should make your purpose the centralized focus of your being. And your purpose should reflect the season which you live. Even God has a purpose to guide and direct the sum of His own thinking. For without purpose our thoughts would only drift. When you have purpose guiding your thoughts, you have a control tower of your thinking, that takes over the control of your actions and speech as well.

54 Isaiah 14: 24 "The Lord of Hosts hath sworn, saying, surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand."

55 Let us bow our heads in Prayer.