

- Our faith in God must be greater than our plans with God.
- The goal of the gospel is not about our **comfort**, but our **commission**.
- Paul's plans were less important than God's purpose.

My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard...21 I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, "Those who have never been told about him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand. 22 In fact, my visit to you has been delayed so long because I have been preaching in these places. Romans 15:20-22 (NLT)

23 But now I have finished my work in these regions, and after all these long years of waiting, I am eager to visit you. 24 I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can provide for my journey. 25 But before I come, I must go to Jerusalem to take a gift to the believers there. Romans 15:23-25

Understanding God's Will:

- A change of plans is not always an indicator that we've missed **God's Will**.
- God's Will is far more relational than rational.

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

God's Will is more about where we are in **Christ** than where we are in **life**.

• Our goal in life should be how we live it, not where we end up.

Paul's goals didn't change, just the **people** and **places**.

When things don't go as planned:

Pray for your wants and desires.

Mark 14:32-42

Yet I want your will to be done, not mine. Mark 14:36 (NLT)

• Surrender to God regardless of the outcome.

When our desires go unmet, allow it to be an offering of worship to God.

As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. 2 Timothy 4:6 (NLT)

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TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Ouestions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- When you look at Paul's life, commitment, sacrifices, etc. What gives you the greatest inspiration and what does it inspire you to be?
- Why does our faith in God need to be greater than our plans with God?
- Do you think that in America believers care more about their comfort or God's commission?
- When your plans change unexpectedly, do you tend to feel that you've missed God's Will? Have you experienced this personally?
- Do you think we pursue God's Will for us or for God?
- What does it mean that God's Will is more relational than rational?
- Why are we so concerned about "where we end up", rather than "how we live"?
- Why is it important to continue to pray for our wants and desires?
- How do we surrender to God regardless of the outcome?
- How is our unmet desires an offering of worship to God?

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Today's Talk..



When things don't go as planned

Sunday, October 27th, 2024

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