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# Discovering God's Plan, Part II (The Process of Elimination)

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## God's Plan

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January 3, 2021

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***Sermon: God's Plan: Discovering God's Plan, Part II (The Process of Elimination)***

***Lesson Text***

Jeremiah 29:8–11 (AV)<sup>8</sup> For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *be* in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. <sup>9</sup> For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD. <sup>10</sup> For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

1 John 4:1–3 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: <sup>3</sup> And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

***Introduction***

On NYE we begun the process of Discovering God's Plan by

- Realizing God's Plan – With no plan we perish, With the wrong plan we die
- Revealing God's Plan – It's revealed through our Calling, our Gifting, and our Shepherd
- Discovering God's Plan – We must eliminate false prophets and false emotions

Today we continue the process of Discovering God's Plan by drilling down on eliminating false prophets and emotions.

Jeremiah 29:9 (AV) <sup>9</sup> For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

Who and what prophesied to us falsely, and how do we distinguish true and false prophecy?

Prophetic communication from God operates in the spiritual realm. The problem is God is not the only one on that party line!

Jeremiah 29:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *be* in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

The other two voices on that line are your human spirit (the flesh) and satanic spirits.

So how do we distinguish, discern, or discriminate on who's talking to us? And no, it's not through the gifts of discernment. Why? Because not all of us have that gift! Which is why so many people are deceived.

1 John 4:1 (AV) <sup>1</sup> Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: The answer is to “Try the Spirit”. This means to examine or test. And the way you test is to compare the answer you have been given against the true answer sheet.

Do you remember a TV game called “Who wants to be a millionaire?” When the contestant didn't know the answer, they could Phone a Friend or Audience Choose.”

The purpose of phoning a friend or asking the audience was to eliminate the false choices. And eventually through the process of elimination you end up with the current answer.

There are false people who are counseling and feeding our souls; there are false prophets that are prophesying to our spirits; false emotions that are speaking to ourselves; and we must eliminate these false voices that are speaking to us so that we can clearly hear from God.

***Series and Sermon: God's Plan: Discovering God's Plan, Part II (The Process of Elimination)***

“Disconnecting False People, Discerning False Prophets, Disregarding False Emotions”

***I. Disconnecting False People***

Jeremiah 29:8-9 (AV) <sup>8</sup> For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *be* in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. <sup>9</sup> For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

The first key in the process of elimination is to disconnect from the counsel of ungodly people. In the book I wrote with Dr. Grace, “Soul Mates, Soul Ties, Soul Survivors”, one of the salient points we brought out is that there are two types of people connected to our Souls: Godly Soul Ties and Ungodly Soul Ties.

Godly Soul Ties are those tied to your soul who benefit God's plan for your life. Whereas Ungodly Soul Ties are those tied to your soul who distract, deter, or destroy God's Plan.

Psalms 1:1 (AV) <sup>1</sup> Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

These Soul Ties are people who are ...

- Ungodly (People without God – human reasoning)
- Sinners (People who Reject God – feel they don't need God)
- Scorners (People who Don't Believe in God - Atheist and Agnostics)

The first verse of the first Psalm tells us not to allow these types of people to feed our soul, and it is in the second verse that we learn how to do it; that is how to eliminate them!

Psalms 1:2 (AV)<sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Instead of allowing ungodly counsel and wicked gossip to fill their souls, they take joy in God's Word meditating and studying it day and night.

And when the people don't line up with the Word of God you eliminate them.

## ***II. Discerning False Prophets***

Jeremiah 29:8-9 (AV) <sup>8</sup> For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *be* in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. <sup>9</sup> For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

The second key in the process of elimination is discerning false prophets.

The challenge in eliminating false prophets is they look the same as true prophets.

- From a ***physical*** and ***spiritual*** perspective, they both look the same!
- They both operate in the same office, preach from the same bible, work in the same profession, dress in the same clothes, minister to the same people, teach the same bible studies.

***False prophets are in position, but they don't have permission, and so, they use deception!***

Matthew 24:11–13 (AV)<sup>11</sup> **And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.** <sup>12</sup> **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.** <sup>13</sup> **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

The answer is discernment, and the first key to discernment is trying or testing.

Too many Christians are being deceived because they only think of discernment in terms of the Supernatural Gift of Discernment; that somehow they should just feel or know in their spirit.

1 John 4:1 (AV) <sup>1</sup> Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

The problem is we all don't have the supernatural gift of discernment, but we all have the ability to try or test.

Testing of trying a false prophet is not about what you feel, it's about what you know. You don't have to be a genius to grade a test, you just have to have the answer key. And when you know the Word of God, you have the answer key to false prophets.

2 Timothy 2:15 (AV)<sup>15</sup> Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Psalms 119:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

John 8:32 (AV)<sup>32</sup> **And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

### ***III. Disregarding False Emotions***

Jeremiah 29: 8-9 (AV) <sup>8</sup>For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *be* in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. <sup>9</sup>For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

The final key in the process of elimination is discerning false emotions; that is your flesh.

- We eliminate false people by Disconnecting (Meditating on the Word of God)
- We eliminate false prophets by Discerning (Studying and Knowing the Word of God)
- We eliminate false emotions by Disregarding (Obeying the Word of God)

Ephesians 4:26–27 (AV)<sup>26</sup> Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: <sup>27</sup>Neither give place to the devil.

Don't let your emotions dictate your behavior; don't let your feelings cause you to sin. Because when we do, we can be deceived by false people and false prophets.

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (AV)<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup>And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Matthew 24:11–13 (AV)<sup>11</sup> **And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. <sup>12</sup>And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. <sup>13</sup>But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

Jeremiah 17:9 (AV)<sup>9</sup> The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

### ***We must disregard our emotions and obey God's Word.***

Obey God's Word and Love: Matthew 5:43–44 (AV)<sup>43</sup> **Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. <sup>44</sup>But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

Obey God's Word and set our affections on Him: Colossians 3:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

**Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Discovering God's Plan, Part II (The Process of Elimination))**

**Lesson Text**

- Jeremiah 29:8–11, 1 John 4:1–3

**Sermon Outline (Notes)**

**I. *Disconnecting False People***

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**II. *Discerning False Prophets***

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**III. *Disregarding False Emotions***

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**Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)**

**I. Getting to Know "Me"**

1. A lot of our vacation plans were canceled in 2020. What vacation(s) do you hope to take in 2021?
2. If you had to choose, what would you choose... 1-story home or 2-story home / minivan or SUV / inside mall or outdoor mall / Monopoly or Life / UNO or Spades / Tic-tac-Toe or Scrabble?

**II. Into the Bible**

1. Study **Matthew 7:15-20**, in which Jesus warns, "Beware of false prophets..." According to these verses:
  - i. What makes it difficult to tell the difference between a false prophet and a true prophet?
  - ii. What test did Jesus tell us to use to distinguish a false prophet from a true one?
  - iii. What is the evil fruit produced by a corrupt tree?
  - iv. What is the good fruit produced by a good tree?
2. Read **Matthew 15:4-9**. Jesus accuses the Pharisees of replacing God's commandment with a man-made tradition. What was the ungodly counsel that the Pharisees were teaching? What was the Word from God they were disregarding? How does this illustrate the first point from Sunday's sermon?

**III. Life Application**

1. Can you recall a situation in which discernment played a part in your decision-making? What were the results?
2. Have you had any experiences in disconnecting from false people? How did you identify that they were false people?