
Discovering God's Plan, Part V (A Plan For Every Season)

God's Plan

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Sermon: God's Plan: Discovering God's Plan, Part V (A Plan For Every Season)

Lesson Text

Jeremiah 29:11 (AV) ¹¹ 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.

2 Timothy 4:1–5 (AV) ¹ I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ 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; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. ⁵ But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Introduction

So far in the Process of Discovering God's Plans we've learned that we must Realize God's Plan, Eliminate what's Not God's Plan, Learn to Get Unstuck to get through God's Plan, and last week we learned the importance of Hope in God's Plan.

- Work Against Hope by holding on to God's Promises
- Believe Against Hope by refusing to see (stop looking)
- Hope Against Hope and fulfill the Promise

Today we want to look at walking and executing the Plan of God regardless of the season we may be experiencing.

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 (AV) ¹ To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: ² A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up *that which is* planted; ³ A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴ A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵ A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; ⁷ A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸ A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

There are 28 seasons of life, 14 of them are the good and great times of our lives; however the other half of them are the bad and horrible times of our lives.

Maybe our life isn't like Sofia from the Color Purple who said, "All my life I had to fight"; but more than likely we can say, "Half my life I had to fight!"

And herein lies the problem for most people; they don't know how to handle the bad half, the bad seasons of life.

Paul said in our lesson text to be instant "In Season" and "Out of Season."

Be ready, be alert, be prepared and ready to execute no matter what season you are in; getting or losing, building or tearing down, dying or being born, dancing or mourning, rejoicing or crying.

In one of my previous lives before I became a Pastor, I was a project manager. And one thing I learned was Murphy's Law: Whatever can go wrong will go wrong! But most people don't know the 2nd part of that law: Therefore I will be prepared for whatever can go wrong.

When you fail to have a plan, then you plan to fail!

To walk and execute the Plan of God, we must have a strategic plan for any and every season that will present itself to us during this thing called life.

Series and Sermon: God's Plan: Discovering God's Plan, Part V (A Plan For Every Season)

“A Readiness Plan, A Trouble Plan, and a Work Plan”

I. A Readiness Plan (Be Instant Regardless of the Season)

2 Timothy 4: ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

One reason so many people are not walking in God's plan is because they are not ready. They don't have a Plan for their Readiness!

To be instant means to always be ready; that is to be prepared, equipped, organized, complete.

When I'm working with couples who are going through marital healing, one of the things I help them to do is to develop a plan for their emotions. What is your plan when you get angry, mad, depressed, vengeful, paranoid, or simply ready to hurt someone?

These emotions are going to come, so what's your plan?

1 Peter 5:8 (AV)⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

It means to stay alert, be on watch, keep a cool head because your adversary is always poised and ready to pounce like a lion hiding in the tall grass.

God's plan for our lives consists of a series of opportunities, but the question is are you prepared for them; do you have a plan for them?

God's plan is fulfilled when our Preparation meets God's Opportunity.

Galatians 6:10 (AV)¹⁰ As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Be Prepared with a Plan for ***“In Season” Opportunities***: The time to be born, plant, heal; build up, laugh, dance, gather, embrace, get, keep, sow, speak, love, and peace.

Be Prepared with a Plan for **“Out of Season” Opportunities**: The time to die, pluck up, kill, break down, weep, mourn, cast away, refrain, lose, cast away, rend, keep silent, hate, and war.

No matter what season we are in, be prepared and ready to preach for any opportunity.

II. A Trouble Plan (Endure Regardless of the Season)

2 Timothy 4: ⁵ But watch thou in all things, **endure afflictions**, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Another reason many Christians are not in God's plan is their inability to endure afflictions. They don't have a Plan for their Trouble.

Afflictions are troubles, sufferings, difficulties, weaknesses, infirmities, and persecutions.

And the reason most of us don't endure the afflictions is because there are so many of them.

- Psalm 34:19 (AV)¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.
- 2 Corinthians 4:8–9 (AV)⁸ *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;
- James 1:2 (AV)² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
- Psalm 69:4 (AV)⁴ They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored *that* which I took not away.

So many afflictions, troubles everywhere, persecutions all the time, all types of temptations, those that hate us are too numerous to count.

But, unfortunately, too many of us are like the lyrics of the Karen Clark Sheard song:

- “I just can't take it no more; my strength has walked out the door. And it left me and told me I can't go no more.”
- “I just can't take it no more, I just want to lay down and die. God, if you hear me, come near me, You're my only hope.”

2 Timothy 4: ³ 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; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. ⁵ But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Although many will not endure, God has given us the power to endure all afflictions.

2 Timothy 2:3 (AV)³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Luke 10:19 (AV)¹⁹ Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

III. A Work Plan (Make Full Proof Regardless of the Season)

2 Timothy 4: ⁵ But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, **make full proof of thy ministry.**

- We walk in God's Plan when we are instant (always ready) no matter the season.
- We walk in God's Plan when we endure afflictions no matter how many.
- Finally, we walk in God's Plan when we prove our ministry no matter how hard the work

The final thing we must understand concerning walking in God's plan regardless of our seasons is the work of our ministry. We need a Plan for our Work!

Our call is bigger than our seasons; it's bigger than our afflictions, it's bigger than our troubles, struggles, persecutions, and haters.

Lives are depending upon us doing the work of our ministry no matter how hard it gets, or else those lives may be lost.

We must make full proof of our ministry, make full proof of your calling by putting in the work.

We must have a Work Plan to Work during the Day:

- Ecclesiastes 12:¹ Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;
- John 9:⁴ **I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.**

We must have a Work Plan to Work even when we get Weary and Tired (Sick & Tired):

- Daniel 7:²⁵ And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.
- Galatians 6:⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

We must have a Work Plan to Work even when nobody or nothing else is working:

- Matthew 5:¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**
- Matthew 5:¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

I have a Readiness Plan to be Instant

I have a Trouble Plan to endure

I have a Work Plan to make full proof

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Discovering God's Plan, Part IV (Hope Against Hope))

Lesson Text

- 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. A Readiness Plan (Be Instant Regardless of the Season)

II. A Trouble Plan (Endure Regardless of the Season)

III. A Work Plan (Make Full Proof Regardless of the Season)

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

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. What are you looking forward to the most this year?
2. If you could change one thing in your past what would it be?

II. Into the Bible

1. Study 1 Peter 3:13-17. Do Christians sometimes suffer for doing what is right? Based on these verses, create a complete plan for what you will do to be ready when you next encounter trouble because you are a Christian, include what you will say if asked why you continue to believe in Christ.
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 gives three instructions: "16Rejoice evermore. 17Pray without ceasing. 18In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Explain how doing each of these things will help us to not become weary in doing God's work. Use scriptures or examples from the Bible to support your answer.

III. Life Application

1. In light of this week's teaching and study on having a plan for every season, is there anything the Holy Spirit is prompting you to start, to stop or keep doing?
2. Since we know that our call is bigger than our seasons, what confessions would you make when you are encountering a bad season in your life? Ref. scriptures.