

DO YOU HAVE PLANS?

-Ryan Parsons-

A year and half ago our family set out on a journey. We had felt called to do something for several years, and finally, things aligned for us to make a plan and carry it out. We remodeled a part of our home and went to days and days of training. Our plan seemed to be coming together. Then, for some strange reason, we sat waiting...for an entire year. After all that time, we had resigned ourselves to never being able to see a fulfillment of our plan. We thought maybe we had misread our calling. Perhaps, our desire and God's desire didn't align. Then, Tuesday morning that all changed. Come to find out, our calling was a little short sighted. God answered by doubling our plan.

The Bible says some interesting things about making plans. Three main things jump out at me.

First, we must always be operating with an "if the Lord wills" attitude.

James 4:13-15

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

Second, the Proverbs help the wise to understand that if something is going to happen, it is because Lord made it happen, not us. As a result, we should always commit our efforts to his will.

Proverbs 16:1, 3, 9

The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord...Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established...The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

Finally, we learn that God is in the blessing business. As we go about our life making plans and carrying them out, He has some plans of his own.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

So, as we continue on in life, let us be wise about our itinerary and make our plans with one thing in mind: The Lord's will. It is Him who establishes our steps and plans and who blesses us. May we rejoice in His goodness!