

*God's Plan
for Your Life*

Some Guidelines

PART ONE

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Why You Are in This World

A DAILY PRAYER — TO LIVE THE GOD PLANNED LIFE.

“Show me thy ways O Lord — teach me thy paths”.
Psalm 25:4.

“So teach us to number our days — that we apply our
hearts unto wisdom”.
Psalm 90:12.



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You are in this world for a definite purpose. God has a particular plan for your life! His plan for you includes happiness, usefulness and progress — with some difficulties and setbacks! Then, on to those achievements, you never thought possible! You can do better than you think — WITH THE HELP OF GOD! for Jesus said “WITH GOD — ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE”. (Matthew 19:26)

The contents of this booklet are to help and encourage you to choose the right road that leads to your life's achievements, the particular path that God has planned for you personally. Remember — “With God, all things are possible!” After some 50 years in full time Gospel service for Christ, I have proved time and time again, that with God's help “all things are possible”. (Matthew 19:26)

You may not have commenced this joyful experience yet, — but you may be nearer to it than you realize. Read on!

YOU ARE IMPORTANT

Mankind is the crowning glory of all of God's creation! You have been endowed with the powers of reasoning, an active imagination, the mystic functions of memory, and a distinct personality. There is no one else in this world just like you, for God has no duplicates!

Yes, your personality can be a tremendous advantage in your future career, for the good of mankind and the Kingdom of God!

Furthermore, you probably possess important abilities, — talents that at present are undiscovered in your mental “make-up”.

MY DISCOVERY

I myself discovered that I possessed the talent of telling Bible stories to boys and girls in a vivid effective manner when I was 27 years of age, and shortly afterwards found out I could “quick sketch” the story in black and white at the same time!

I then commenced telling the Gospel by illustrated Bible stories to young people across Australia for over 20 years!

Who knows what gifts and talents the Lord has implanted in your mind and personality for His service? Only time and your personal effort will discover what they are! “Stir up the gift of God that is in thee” (2 Timothy 1:6).

THE STARTING POINT

The very commencement of God’s Life Plan for you and for me is that we must be forgiven for all our past sins and wrong-doings; we must be saved and set free from the guilt and power of sin, the wickedness that is inherent in human nature. For believe it or not the Bible declares “God requires that which is past” Eccles. 3:15. This free and complete forgiveness — this SALVATION, is granted to each of us when we, by simple faith, receive Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. “For when we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8) and remember, God never takes two payments for the one debt. So then, by receiving Christ Jesus as personal Saviour and Friend, we now — with Him, go forward into a life that is full of meaning and purpose. That is why Jesus said — “I am the way the Truth and the life, no man commeth to the Father but by me”. (John 14:6). Remember Jesus

never leads anyone of His followers into a “dead end” in life, as the Lord taught and guided His first disciples, so with us — with you dear reader. Because the Lord has a particular plan for your life, He will fit you for it, and what is more, no one will ever do your service for God just like you can.

So the foregoing in some measure, explains “Why You Are In This World”.

A STEP AT A TIME

Because God has a personal plan for your future, He has promised to guide you forward a step at a time, a day at a time! “When thou goest, thy steps shall not be hindered!” (Proverbs 4:12).

Remember, the Lord is never in a hurry. It sometimes takes Him days to make one golden sunset!

Be assured — if you are in earnest to know God’s plan for you — and are willing to follow His leading, He now gives you His permanent promise, “I will teach thee and instruct thee in the way that thou shalt go”. (Psalms 32:8). And when God says so — it is GUARANTEED! We now come to some proven and interesting ways by which we can discover God’s guidance indicating His plan for your present and future.

Some Methods of God's Guidance

THROUGH OUR ABILITIES

Indications of God's plan for us may come through our present abilities. It has been well said that when God calls us to some particular service, He fits us for the task. Here is an actual case in point.

A collector of taxes for the Roman army of occupation in Israel, was busy in his toll office in Capernaum's Gate. The Scriptures read. "As Jesus went forth He saw a publican (Tax gatherer) named Levi sitting at the receipt of custom and He said unto him 'Follow me, and he arose, left all and followed Him.'" (Luke 5: 27-28).

We have no divine record that Levi preached sermons or performed miracles. But we do discover that Levi possessed the ability for accurate and detailed observation of the happenings around him, and he put it to good use!

As he walked the dusty roads of Israel with the Saviour and the other disciples, Levi was busy with his stylus and inkhorn. Carefully he jotted down the outstanding truths that Christ taught the crowds, and recorded many of the miracles that He performed.

In due time this converted tax collector used his one ability, of carefully recording events, still further. With persistent patience – mark you – Levi carefully set down in order the Divine Truths and Miracles of the Saviour – so giving to the world for all time, the first twenty eight chapters of our NEW TESTAMENT,

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO S.T. MATTHEW; for such was Levi's other name! One man, with one ability, – one purpose – and God! And mankind still benefits today. So discover what you are fitted to do in God's Service – and then "do it with all thy might" (Eccles. 9:10).

WHAT ARE YOUR ABILITIES ?

You may possess the gift of ready speech and an active imagination. Such abilities when co-ordinated with your own particular personality can be greatly used in telling out the great truths and stories of the Scriptures. Where? Perhaps in your local Sunday School, Christian Youth Group or open air witness! etc. Just two weeks after I was converted, I was trying to teach a small Sunday School class of eight little boys the simple stories of the New Testament! It was a start!

Again, you may have the ability – say, "an ear for music" and be able to sing or play a musical instrument – splendid! Use and train your gift in God's service. So whatever your ability may be – St. Paul puts it this way, "Stir up the gift of God that is in thee". (2nd Timothy 1:6). We either use or in time lose our abilities.

DIVINE GUIDANCE THROUGH PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES

An important step forward in God's scheme for our Christian service may be through "the door of our present opportunity". This was my personal experience some time back.

A Christian friend 'phoned me – "could I record a brief message for a Radio Broadcast that he was unable to supply". It was "A bolt out of the blue". I

knew nothing of radio broadcasting. I was a youth evangelist with the Open Air Campaigners in Sydney. But with trepidation, I chatted with my friend and finally decided to face the microphone at Radio 2CH Studios and recorded a brief message on "A Heathen girl made happy". The story of Ruth (in Judges). It was quite an ordeal for me, but it impressed upon my mind the wide and vast opportunity of reaching many listeners with the Gospel by Radio. This opportune "door of utterance : gradually widened under God's Guiding hand, — until today, we of Bible Radio Productions (see back page) are now broadcasting the Way of Salvation over some thirty-two Radio Stations around the world, with some forty broadcasts weekly!

So, watch for opportunities to serve the Lord and I repeat "Whatsoever thine hand findeth to do — do it with thy might". (Eccles. 9:10).

GUIDANCE IN OUR DAILY VOCATION

A word of caution is needed here! It is seldom that God's plan for our Christian Service etc., includes "full time" ministry. As a general rule our daily work or profession may provide the opportunities. The majority of the vast army of those doing valiant service for Christ are employed in a daily vocation of some kind. The two young men who led the writer of this booklet to Christ — both earned their daily bread in the City of Brisbane.

Bible History records that Daniel was a Stateman in a Persian Court (Daniel 1:19-21). Luke, the writer of the third Gospel, was a Physician (Col.4:14). Paul was — by trade, a maker of tents! And at times had to ply his trade to pay expenses (Acts 18:3). The first convert to Christ in Europe, Lydia of Thyatira, was herself a trader in purple cloth (Acts 16:14).

EXAMINE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES

By the same token, if we carefully examine our present circumstances, we shall doubtless discover God's guidance that indicates our present sphere of service in opportunities close at hand! Perhaps the Saviour Himself gives us the final word just here. After Jesus had cast the demon out of that man at Gadara, the grateful man requested that he might be with Christ. Behold the Lord's reply as He said "Go home to thy friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for thee". (Mark 5:19). That's just where we must commence our service for our Lord.

GUIDANCE FROM THE SCRIPTURES

"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH" (Psalms 119:105).

A true statement and a good introduction to this brief paragraph! Just as the Word of God guided us to our saving faith in Christ as Personal Saviour, in exactly the same way will we receive guidance and understanding from the Scriptures in matters relative to God's plan for our Christian Service as we go forward a step at a time!

When God gave Joshua the important task of leading Israel into the Promised Land to face difficulties, fight strenuous battles and claim the territory for Israel, the Lord gave Joshua His Divine promise of guidance, protection and victory. "Have not I commanded thee, be strong and of good courage, be not afraid neither be thou dismayed for the Lord thy God is with thee, wither soever thou goest". (Joshua 1 : 9). And so it was, as we read of Joshua's mighty campaign to conquer Southern Israel in early Bible days.

In our progress too, we will face difficulties and "set-backs", but the Scriptures encourage and guide us on-

wards. A thought! Claim “Joshua 1:9” for your daily progress forward.

When David was in difficulties and dangers, in Psalm 27:11, he prayed “Teach me Thy way O Lord, lead me in a plain path.” His Psalms testify how wonderfully and continually God answered David’s prayers.

When we are in doubt or uncertainty, we receive guidance from the Scriptures in Ps. 37:5, “Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass”. I would repeat, when God gives us a promise “it’s GUARANTEED”. As we read the Scriptures daily, relative to our daily life and service, we shall surely find them to be our – chart, compass, and guiding light, from the Author Himself!

GUIDANCE THROUGH PRAYER

“TEACH ME THY WAY O LORD” Psalm 27:11.

Our practical habit of daily prayer to God is a most important exercise that surely brings Divine Guidance to us concerning our sphere of Christian service etc.

When Saul of Tarsus was about to enter Damascus and arrest all who were disciples of the risen Saviour, he was suddenly confronted by the Lord Himself! In a moment of time, Saul realized who Jesus was! The Son of God! Then Saul enquired of the Saviour “Lord, What will thou have me do?” (Acts 9:8). Immediately Jesus gave him the needed guidance! So the world’s greatest Christian missionary commenced his wonderful life with a heartfelt prayer of eight words!

Throughout the Scriptures and onwards to our present day, the Kingdom of God has been established and extended only by those who pray to God for His guidance, help and power. Jesus Himself spent nights in prayer!

The Scriptures declare “men ought always to pray and not to be disheartened”, so dear reader – ask the Lord for help and guidance how to pray, and to pray in faith! For Jesus said “Ask and ye shall receive” (Matthew 7:7). No breath is ever lost in believing prayer. Pray on, pray through, – and then carefully observe God’s guidance and Help day by day.

Our Difficulties and Conflicts

Their Necessity and Reward

God’s plan for our present – and – future includes difficulties, problems and conflicts. Apart from obtaining guidance and understanding from the Scriptures, we must all pass through God’s School of practical daily experience. In this way, TRUTH and EXPERIENCE are fused into our Christian Character making us strong, dependable, and useful for God’s Service. It has been well said that “When trouble visits us she brings a nugget of Gold”! We shall now discover how the Lord allows adverse circumstances etc. to be for our good and usefulness.

“FROM PIT TO PALACE”

JOSEPH’S PROMOTION (Genesis 41)

Little did Joseph imagine that, when his murderous brothers lowered him that day into that pit of death near Dothan – and finally dragged him out again, and

sold him as a “slave youth” to passing Midianite Merchants, that God meant it for Joseph’s Good! But so it was! as we shall now see!.

As we read in Genesis 39 and onwards, we are informed that Joseph was later sold as a “house slave” to Potiphar. Next, he was thrown into prison through the lying accusations of Potiphar’s wife and lived for three years behind prison bars. What times of loneliness discouragement he must have endured! Yet – mark you, in God’s time, Joseph was released, hurriedly brought before the Pharaoh and explaining the monarch’s dreams, was instantly promoted to be Prime Minister of all Egypt. Joseph then commenced his wise preservation of Egypt’s people – by storing the huge grain harvests during “the seven years of plenty” – and – also he nurtured his father, brothers and their families, who later became the foundation of the Nation of Israel!

“FROM PIT TO PALACE AND PROSPERITY!”

So my friend never be discouraged or downhearted, no matter what your circumstances may be. “Commit thy way unto the Lord – trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass”. Ps.37:5 (In His time)!

For the God that lived in Joseph’s time is just the same TODAY! and He holds the solutions to all your trials and problems. Remember that “God is too wise to make a mistake and too good to be unkind to His redeemed children.

“FAILURE IS NOT FINAL”

“I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME”. (Phil. 4:13).

Many a converted ‘born again’ child of God has the personal problem of lack of courage, inborn timidity

and those feelings of fear and inadequacy to witness for the Lord. We are not all “Daniels” and “Davids” are we? Yet be assured that as Jesus said to Paul, and He says to us also, “My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2Cor. 12:9).

JOHN MARK – HIS FAILURE – AND FINAL VICTORY!

Here is the story of a young man who turned back from Christian service but his failure was not final, – read on!

When Paul and his helpers including John Mark, arrived at Perga (in southern Europe) on their first missionary campaign – John Mark left the missionary party, turned back and returned to his home in Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Probably the dangers and the rigours of facing pagan crowds with the Gospel in the unknown mountains ahead were too much for him. In any case – at great disappointment to Paul, John Mark – “lowered his Gospel flag and retreated’.

Yet later on he again joined the ranks of those early heralds of the Cross, for Paul wrote to Timothy “Take Mark and bring him with thee for he is profitable to me for the ministry”. (2 Tim. 4:11). Yes, John Mark’s christian witness was shining brightly once again. It glowed into a permanent beacon of gospel light that has been shining across the world for nearly two thousand years, for it was the same John Mark who wrote the second Gospel – “The Gospel according to St. Mark”! So take courage, for Christ’s strength can be made perfect in your weakness! Whatever it may be! It’s up to you! Our failure need not be final. With God’s help we can start afresh in His plan for our life’s work no matter what our circumstances are at this time! Christ Himself is the Answer!

for His promise is "I am with you ALWAYS" (Matthew 28:20).

VICTORY OVER INNER CONFLICTS

"WHO IS SUFFICIENT FOR THESE THINGS?"

2 Cor. 2:16. "OUR SUFFICIENCY IS OF GOD".

2 Cor. 3:5.

God's plan for our present and future, certainly includes these two great personal experiences!

1. We must receive the Lord's forgiveness for all our past sins and wrong doings by trusting Christ as Personal Saviour. "In whom we have the forgiveness of sins". (Eph. 1:7)
2. It has been well said that "Christ died to save us from the penalty of our sins and He now lives to set us free from the POWER OF SIN" in our lives.

We each know the struggle and conflict we have at times with our temptations, and we are ashamed and convicted when we yield to temptation and sin. Yet God is merciful to His children – for, 'If we confess our Sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"! (John 1:9). What a perfect cleansing! Yet St. Paul declares "SIN SHALL NOT HAVE DOMINION OVER YOU" (Romans 6:14).

"SIN SHALL NOT BE YOUR MASTER"

Romans 6:14 (New Eng. Bible).

If you are dead earnest to overcome your sinful weaknesses and live a Christian life of personal power and and victory over inward SIN, then please read Romans Chapters 6-7-8 without delay. For therein, do we discover the methods and steps to personal Victory over those habits and pitfalls of our past. Yes Christ is the answer for He has promised – "If the Son shall make you free, Ye shall be free indeed"

(John 8:36). Step into your freedom now by faith, and by personal effort, 'Go Forward'!

STEPPING INTO GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE

We now come to the important step that the Lord desires you to take, in His perfect plan for your life. It is the gateway to your future, that will be so full of meaning – challenge, and rewarding achievement. The call to this challenging decision is given us by St. Paul in his letter to the Christians at Rome.

"I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies - a living sacrifice, Holy acceptable unto God - which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God". (Romans 12 : 1 - 2);

So, my friend, if you would know and live in the perfect will and plan of God, – St. Paul makes it plain. It commences with an unreserved total dedication of yourself to Christ, to serve Him as He may lead you. Will you take that step?

MY DEDICATION

Trusting Christ as my personal Saviour, I now dedicate my life to Him to use me as He will guide me.

SIGNED.....

DATE.....

' FEAR NOT, I AM WITH THEE, I WILL STRENGTHEN THEE, I WILL HELP THEE".

(Isaiah 41:10),

Bible Helps in Times of Need!

"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH" (Psalm 119:105)

1. WHEN YOU NEED GUIDANCE

"Commit thy way unto the Lord. Trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass". (Ps. 37 : 5).

2. WHEN YOU ARE DEPRESSED

"Why art thou cast down O my soul? Why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance". (Ps. 42:5).

3. WHEN YOU ARE DISAPPOINTED

"We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose". (Rom. 8:28).

4. WHEN YOU HAVE SINNED

"If we confess our sins (to Him) He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". (1 John 1:7).

5. WHEN YOU ARE LONELY

"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee". (Hebrews 13:5).
"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever". (Heb. 13:8).

6. WHEN YOU ARE DISCOURAGED

"Fear not, I am with thee, be not dismayed I am thy God, I will help and strengthen thee". (Isa. 41:10)

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you". (1 Peter 5:7).

7. WHEN IN DOUBT

1. Regarding Decisions.

"Teach me thy way O Lord, show me thy paths". (Psalm 27:11).

2. Concerning the future.

"Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness". (Ps. 112:4).

8. WHEN YOU ARE FEARFUL

"The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps. 27:1).

"When I am afraid I will trust in thee". (Psalm 56:3).

9. WHEN YOU WORRY

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God, and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your heart and mind through Christ Jesus". (Phil. 4:6).

"When you're in a fix, remember Phillipians 'four and six' ".

10. WHEN YOU LACK COURAGE

“Be strong and of good courage, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever thou goest”. (Joshua 1:9).

11. WHEN YOU FIND IT HARD TO PRAY

“Men ought always to pray and not be faint”. (Never lose heart.” New Eng. Bible). (Luke 18:1).

“Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving(Col.4:2)

12. WHEN PRAYER SEEMS UNANSWERED

“Everyone who asketh receiveth .. To him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (Matt. 7:8).

“In the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee and will look up”. (Ps. 5:3) (for an answer).

13. WHEN YOU NEED CHRISTIAN FRIENDS

“There went out with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.” (1 Sam. 10:26).

“In everything by prayer and supplication let your request be made known unto God.” (Phil. 4:6).

A DAILY PRAYER PETITION – FOR GOD TO HELP US FORWARD IN OUR “LIFE-PLAN”.

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Psalm 90:12).

“Show me Thy ways O Lord,teach me Thy paths” (Psalm 25:4).

“ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH BE IT UNTO YOU.” Matt. 9:29.

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