

God's Plan For Your Life
Romans 8:24-29
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

What is God's plan for your life...10, 20, 30 years down the road? Uncertainty and narrow perspective too often dominate Christians. But God does have a plan for you, He wants you to know that plan, and live in light of the knowledge. This passage in Romans clearly lays out the big picture of God's plan for the life of all who trust Him, and it gives Christians a clear perspective on what is most important.

Your immediate job prospects, performance in school, etc are of real importance. But, truth be told, the next few decades that tend to dominate our thinking are only a small fraction of a tiny fraction of your lifetime. You will live century after century either in spender or shame, in joy or agony, in blessed light or outer darkness forever.

What is God's plan for your life 10 thousand, 10 billion, 10 trillion years down the road? The big picture changes our perspective a little bit, and it gives us clarity about what really matters in these few decades.

God's plan for your life is to bring you up in the...“unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ (Eph 4:13-15).”

Or as Romans 8:24-29 says, God's plan for the life of the Christian is that you be “conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Rom 8:29).”

Christian, God's will for your life is that you in your own way become like Jesus, and enjoy life in the community of those who share His holy image. Knowing that this is our end goal, this passage provides powerful guidance along that way...

*Follow God's plan to renew you according to the image of Jesus;
Endure through hope, be helped by the Spirit, and know that God's power works all things to His plan!*

*No one can be conformed to the image of Jesus unless they trust Him and take Him as their Lord.
So you must start by renouncing your own plans and your own way, and ask Him to save you!*

Romans 8:24-25 Enduring Through Hope

You are not a passive partner in God's plan to make you like Christ. Living faith leads to work, and you must work with patient endurance. Hope will grow your endurance.

Vs 24-25 saved by hope Faith and hope are so tightly bound together because our salvation requires us to hope in God more than we hope in the world. We cannot trust God without dying to the world and our own self-righteousness. To come to God we must place our informed trust in His future promises, and firmly reject what the world offers us now.

Vs 25 “patience wait for it.” This phrase should not sound passive! Saving faith leads to hope, and hope drives patient waiting in steadfast work. Biblical patience is not a lazy, passive waiting, but a joyful and mighty endurance.

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went....These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. (Heb 11:6-13)”

Be filled with hope so that you can work on your part of God's plan for your life with endurance!

Romans 8:26-27 Being Helped By The Spirit

God has given every Christian a race to run, but he has not left us to run alone. He has given us the Holy Spirit who Jesus calls the “Paraclete” (“Comforter” in John 16:7). “Paraclete” means “someone who speaks on your side”

and here we see one way that the Spirit “speaks on our side,” He intercedes for us by speaking for us before God.

Vs 26 “Likewise...” In the same way that a bright and growing hope gives us the strength to run our race with endurance, “...the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities:...”

We are very weak in many ways. God allows us to be lacking in many things so that we will seek Him and not lack the most important thing: a living relationship with Him.

This "helping" is not cheering from far away, but close fellowship in labor. The term literally means to "take up the work with someone."

Vs 26 How does the Spirit help? “for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

We are often entirely ignorant of what is best for us. We don't know the details of God's will and we don't know the future, that is why we need the Spirit to speak for us when we don't know what to say.

Vs 26 “...for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” The Spirit of God suffers with us. Like the whole creation in 8:22, the Spirit also groans deeply in sorrow for our state. The point of this statement is that the Spirit's prayers are not with outward sounds. We pray outwardly with words, but the Spirit provides a direct link between our inward person and God in heaven.

Christian, know that the Spirit lives in you and faithfully prays for your good even when you don't know what that is!

Vs 27 Our intercessor is very wise and heaven is always attentive to Him. The answer always comes – not always what you want, but always what is good.

Rest in the help of the Spirit, know that He prays for you at all times and prays for exactly what you need!

Romans 8:28 Knowing the Power of God

So far we have seen the part we have in being conformed to Christ, and the help God gives us by the Spirit who intercedes for us, but this only scratches the surface. Now we see that all things work toward God's plan for our life.

“And we know that all things work together” Nothing and no one is excluded in this. God uses all people, all decisions, and all events to advance His plan. The entire universe and everything in it turns according to a grand purpose.

“for good to them who love God” these are the people of God because they have responded to the love of God and His calling according to His purpose. What is the good that all things work to? Obtaining the image of Christ. If you have trusted Jesus as your savior, then everything in your life will advance God's plan.

God is able to work good out of things that were meant to harm you.

God is able to work good out of your failures and weaknesses.

“to them who are the called according to his purpose.” God's purpose is to set you apart from the profane, to bring you out of darkness, and set you apart as holy and beloved. And by His power, all things work to this purpose.

Know that God's power works every situation to your good and His glory!

CONCLUSION Romans 8:29 God's Plan For Your Life

So all of these things: our enduring work, the constant work of the Spirit, and the providence of God, work to one goal, God's plan for your life: **“to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”** God's wonderful plan for your eternal life is to make you like Jesus, shining with the glory of God and a beloved part of the community of the Holy Ones - full of might and joy.

Vs 29 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate...” And His plan for those who love Him has been in place long before the World was made.

“According to as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (Eph 1:4-5).”

This means that nothing will happen tomorrow to change God's plan. And seeing His wisdom and power, we might ask what part we really have. As we said at the beginning, we are not passive partners. God has predestined those who love Him to be saved, and he has predestined good works for us to do.

“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of

God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Eph 2:7-10).”

So how should we respond to such wisdom and power?

Use hope to grow a steadfast endurance!

Spend time with hopeful Christians, meditate on God's promises, and take time to acknowledge the blessings that you receive day to day.

Do the work of hope, good works that point to Jesus, with “diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises (Heb 6:11-12)!”

Like thankfulness, hope is a skill that you can strengthen through practice with others in Christ. Find help to hope in the life of the church!

When you are weak, rest on the ministry of the Spirit of God!

If you have trusted Jesus, then God's Spirit lives in you and constantly prays for you in exactly the right way. That means that when you are discouraged, weak, or confused, you are not beaten. In fact, Your infirmities are too your if they drive you to the Spirit for help.

When you are tempted to be discouraged with yourself, or bitter with the world, know that God works all things to the good of those who love Him!

A strong grasp on God's sovereignty lets us live joyful, brave, lives.

If you have not yet trusted Christ, ask yourself: is my plan really better than this? *If you know that you need to be changed, renounce your own plans and your own way, and ask Him to save you!*

*Follow God's plan to renew you according to the image of Jesus;
Endure through hope, be helped by the Spirit, and know that God's power works all things to His plan!*