

As God's Plan Unfolds

March 26, 2017

YOUR COURSE IS SET

Psalm 37:23 NASB

23 **The steps of a man are established** (*kuwn - to be fixed, securely determined, prepared, ready, arranged*) **by the LORD, And He delights** (*chaphets - take pleasure in, be pleased to do*) **in his way.**

Psalm 139:16 NASB

16 **Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.**

Proverbs 16:9 NASB

9 **The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.**

Jeremiah 10:23 NASB

23 **I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.**

Philippians 1:6 NASB

6 **For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.**

Proverbs 20:24 NASB

24 **Man's steps are ordained by the LORD, How then can man understand his way?**

"We serve a Head [Jesus] we cannot see, and we listen to a voice we cannot literally hear. Often we feel as if we're being asked to follow a plan we do not understand. And I need to repeat here, during the process of discovering God's leading, we are subject to enormous changes. These are changes we must embrace in the power of the Spirit if we are to obey our Lord's lead." Chuck Swindoll, "People Pleasing", Insight for Today

Proverbs 3:5-7 NASB

5 **Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.**

6 **In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.**

7 **Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.**

Abraham - *"Go forth from your country...And I will make you a great nation..."* Gen 12:1-2

Joseph - *"Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more."* Gen 37:5

Moses - *"...I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people...out of Egypt."* Exo 3:10

David - *"Then Samuel...anointed him...the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David..."* 1 Sam 16:13

Jesus - *"...you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."* Matt 1:21

Paul - *"...he is a chosen instrument...I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."* Acts 9:15-16

THE WAY BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE

Job 3:11 NASB

11 **"Why did I not die at birth, Come forth from the womb and expire?"**

Genesis 17:17 NASB

17 **Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"**

Genesis 39:20 NASB

20 **So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail.**

Acts 7:29-30 NASB

29 **"At this remark, Moses fled and became an alien in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons."**

30 **"After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of mount sinai, in the flame of a burning thorn bush."**

1 Samuel 20:1 NASB

1 **Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity? And what is my sin before your father, that he is seeking my life?"**

John 11:21 NASB

21 **Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."**

Matthew 16:21-22 NASB

21 **From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.**

22 **Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."**

Luke 24:19-21 NASB

19 **And He [Jesus] said to them [two men on the road to Emmaus], "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,**

20 **and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.**

21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened."

1 Corinthians 4:11-13 NASB

11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;

12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;

13 when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27 NASB

23 ...beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

Philippians 1:13 NASB

13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else.

THE HEART IS HUMBLLED

God takes us to the impossible to break all self-reliance and self-sufficiency to depend wholly on Him.

Job 27:6 NASB

6 "I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go. My heart does not reproach any of my days."

Job 40:1-5 NASB

1 Then the LORD said to Job,

2 "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it."

3 Then Job answered the LORD and said,

4 "Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth."

5 "Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more."

Exodus 3:10-11 NASB

10 "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 NASB

7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself!

8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

"It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply." — A.W. Tozer

MOTIVES ARE PURIFIED

We can never rise above the trial unless we realize it's not about me; it's all about God and my absolute surrender to His ways.

Job 40:6-8 NASB

6 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm and said,

7 "Now gird up your loins like a man; I will ask you, and you instruct Me."

8 "Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?"

Philippians 1:15-20 NASB

15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;

16 the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;

17 the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

18 **What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,**

19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, **but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.**

CONVICTIONS ARE HARDENED

In the warfare of faith vs. sight, our convictions become hardened to believe God when there is no natural hope; when our mind, emotions, circumstances and others are telling us the opposite.

Romans 4:18-21 NASB

18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "*so shall your descendants be.*"

19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb;
20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,
21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

John 11:14-15 NASB

14 So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,
15 and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."

THE FULFILLMENT COMES

Many times in God's purposes and plans, the circumstances that we think will imprison us for our lifetime change in a moment.

Genesis 40:20-23 NASB

20 Thus it came about on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants.
21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand;
22 but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them.
23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Genesis 41:1 NASB

1 Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile.

Genesis 41:14 NASB

14 Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh.

Genesis 41:39-43 NASB

39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are.
40 "You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you."
41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."
42 Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck.
43 He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt.