



Managing GOD's Money

Last time we saw God gives us clear goals. But the plan He gives us usually is fuzzy.

The plan is part of our holiness journey designed to draw us close to Jesus. It's the steps needed to carry out His goal. Unlike the goal, usually we do not get it to start the journey, but piecemeal along the way. Psalm 119:105 should help us understand how we get the plan; I call it the **Journey Principle**:

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

The **Journey principle** reminds us to look to Jesus daily for that day's assignment, nothing more. He knows that's all we can manage.

We must separate the **goal from the plan**, because God's goals do not change, but the plan will be fuzzy and will have several possible paths. That's why it's essential after getting the goal from God to continue listening to Him about the journey's details.

God told Moses to go to Egypt to free the Israelites and Moses obeyed. The plan challenged and frustrated Him, still the goal never changed. God and His Word never changes, so don't expect His goals to change. Listen to Apostle Paul in Hebrews 13:8:

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

When we accept the goal doesn't change, we will be able to look for God's plan, confident we will realize His goal. We will accept that finding His path to the goal, the plan, will need dependence on Him and will draw us closer to Him.

Obstacles we meet when we carry out the plan merely are **learning stations**; we overcome by trusting and obeying Jesus.

As we travel on our journey, we must depend on Christ. The closer our walk with Him, the more we will depend on Him, and the greater our faith. Further, we must accept adjustments from God to His plan, to deal with each obstacle. Some adjustments might take us outside our comfort zones; but that's all right provided He is in control.

As he worked God's plan, Moses visited Pharaoh several times before Pharaoh released the Israelites. Meanwhile, conditions worsened for the Israelites. In Exodus 5:7-8, Pharaoh said:

Exodus 5:7-8

"You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. But require them to make the same number of bricks as before ..."

God hardened Pharaoh's heart for His glory, so Pharaoh did not release the Israelites willingly.

When we meet obstacles daily, remember they are simply one way to show God's awesome powers. Moses and the Israelites met many obstacles but as God delivered them from each, He showed them and Pharaoh his overwhelming powers.

Followers of Christ know we have won the war; we have victory. So let's approach each day confident Jesus will take us through each battle as we work on His goal.

The next time you become frustrated because nothing seems to be going right, go to a quiet place, ask God to show you if you are working on His goal and plan or yours.

I recall before I wrote my first book I was sure I had more important projects than to write this book. After all, I was an executive with big responsibilities in a large company.

On one of my many trips to Australia, God showed me clearly I was working my plan and not his. I had confused the goal and plan. His goal was to complete the book by 31 October 1999; but because I met many obstacles, I decided the goal was unachievable. That's what most of us do: unconsciously we over-ride God.

God had allowed obstacles to teach me to rely on Him and not me. He showed me that my eyes were on me, my circumstances, and not Him. This was His message to me: listen for His goals, which won't change; keep my eyes on Him; don't work my plan. Though we won't achieve God's goal, don't lose heart, the challenges we face when we work our plans, will teach us to trust and obey Him. To be sure, we will achieve His goals always, in His time, following His plan.

Next time, I will talk about the budget and money map. Meanwhile think about this:

<p style="text-align: center;">Do you believe you can be a good steward of God's money if you do not work with a budget?</p>

God bless and remember Jesus loves you.