God's Plan
GOD'S PROMISES
& GOD'S PEOPLE
SMALL GROUP STUDY

Session 6: God's Promises Lead to God's Best Plans

Are we willing to serve the King? Are we willing to surrender our wills and redirect them to honor God, even when it goes against our dreams for ourselves or what we want to do? To be a servant in God's Kingdom requires a few characteristics: consistently choosing right over wrong, practicing contentment, and understanding the authority we've been given through Christ. Being a servant of Almighty God isn't restrictive; it leads straight to His promises. God sets the boundaries of our life, and responding to Him in obedience leads to blessings and God-sized opportunities.

Scriptures

Ephesians 1:1 (NIV®)
Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God…

Philippians 3:7–9 (NIV®)
But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ … I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him.

Philippians 4:12–13 (NIV®)
I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

1 Timothy 6:6 (NIV®)
But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Philippians 2:8–11 (NIV®)
And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 13:15–17 (NIV®)
I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Discussion Questions

1. It's a characteristic of a servant to choose God's will over our own. Do you know what God wants for you today? What does it look like for you to consciously choose His will over your own desires? Share a practical example.

2. As God's servants, we've been entrusted with authority. This authority can be further extended or taken away, depending on our responses. Where do you have some authority or influence in your life? How are you currently managing the authority you've been given?

3. When God introduces His plan for our life, it often means an interruption of the life we thought we had planned. Share a time when God interrupted your plans and how you knew it was God's direction.

4. What does it look like to yield your will to God at home, at work, as a parent, as a spouse, as a child, etc.?

5. Pastor Allen lists four components of serving the King: yielding our will, becoming content to trust in God and His faithfulness, understanding the authority with which we've been entrusted, and understanding the limits on that authority. Which of these is the most challenging for you, and why?

6. Why is it important to understand that the authority God gives each of us has limits, and how should those limits influence the way we live and the way we serve others?

7. What are some practical ways you can demonstrate integrity, faithfulness, and excellence in your work—even when no one else is watching?

Going Deeper

1. When God has asked you to serve in a new way, or to invest more time and energy in a place where you're already serving, how have you responded? What would you need to change to serve God in a new way this week?

2. Contentment is another characteristic of a servant. It doesn't mean complacency; it's confidence that the faithfulness of God will be expressed, and it's not dependent on our own sense of timing. Where are you trusting God for His faithfulness today?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we choose obedience to You, to our Lord Jesus, and to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Lead us in paths of righteousness. Grant us willing spirits to serve You faithfully all the days of our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

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