



Planning for the Future – Trusting God

P_{review}

We all dream about the future and what we hope to do with our lives. Statistics show that most people will not reach their goals unless they write them down. Have you written down any goals for your future? Does anyone have a goal they want to share?

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No matter what goals we reach in our lives, if we are Christians, we will always give God the glory for our successes. It's because of God that we are able to focus on our goals and stay committed to them. God helps us to stay focused even in the midst of difficult times. He calms our frustration and comforts us when we are grieving. He is our source of energy and creativity. Would anyone like to share an example of how God helped you to reach a goal?

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In the Bible, faithful people followed God and His plans and goals for their lives.

Read **Genesis 6:9-22**. Noah believed God and built the ark, and he, his family, and all of the animals were saved from the Flood. When Noah was a little boy, he probably didn't dream of growing up one day to build an ark, but it was a goal that God had for Noah, and because Noah accepted God's will for his life, he and his family and the animals were saved.

Read **Exodus 3:1-14**. God had a plan for Moses' life that certainly wasn't a part of Moses' plan. Moses was a Hebrew but had been raised by the daughter of Pharaoh (king of Egypt). One day after he was grown, Moses saw an Egyptian slave master abusing some of his people who were slaves. Enraged, Moses killed him and fled for his life. He spent the next forty years in the desert tending sheep. Then God called Moses to go back to Egypt to confront Pharaoh and tell him to "Let my people go!" Moses was afraid of such a large task. He even asked God to send someone else because his speech impediment made him dread speaking in public. But Moses obeyed, God went with him, and in the end the Israelites were freed from slavery and made it to the Promised Land.

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Through life, we will find that we start having new goals and dreams about what we should do with our lives. We will want some things in the future that today we have no idea they even exist. Or maybe we won't have the confidence we could ever do those things. But if we let God direct our steps, we will fulfill His goals and plans for our lives and do great things we never even imagined we could do.

Read **Psalm 119:105**. No matter what plans we make, we must turn to the Word of God to guide us. Pray about the decisions you make and the things you want to do. Ask God to open doors for you and make the path He has chosen clear and easy to pursue. Read **James 4:13-15**. You may find that God has a different idea for your life than you do, but trust Him and follow Him, and you will accomplish great things.

Pactice

Read **Matthew 6:25-44**. God knows what you need and what His plans are for your life. Maybe things aren't going fast enough for you, or not as you had planned. Maybe you've run into disappointments and challenges you never expected. Read **Romans 8:28**. Read **Jeremiah 29:11**. God has a plan for your life. Will you trust Him and allow Him to lead you? His timing is perfect.

Pray

Lord, we trust that You have a plan for our lives. We don't know what Your plans are, or how they will come to pass. We have our own goals and dreams that we want to see happen. Help us to bring our plans to You and find out what You want to do with our lives. Then help us to follow You in obedience.

Plus

Maybe it is your dream to go to college, have a family, start a business, work in politics or change the world. Maybe you want to do all of those things. Remember that God's dreams for you are bigger than your dreams for yourself. Read **Proverbs 3:5-6**: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path" (NKJV).