

**DISCIPLESHIP 3  
GOD'S PLAN  
SERIES**

**UNIT 1 - LESSON 1, 2  
INTRODUCTION - THE FOUNDATION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP  
WITH GOD  
GOD'S PLAN FOR RELEASING FAITH**

for

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**DISCIPLESHIP III**  
**LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN (WAYS)**

**UNIT I - FAITH**

**LESSON 1 - FAITH, THE BASIS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH  
GOD**

**I. GOD'S HEART REVEALED**

In this lesson, from **Psalm 81:8-16** we want to lay the FOUNDATION for **LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN (WAYS)**.

Under the direction of the Holy Spirit we would see the HEART and NATURE of our FATHER GOD.

**A. We would see that the heart of God DESIRES TO PROTECT, DEFEND, AND FIGHT for His children.**

**B. That our Father DESIRES TO GIVE His children THE VERY BEST**

**C. That our Father IS NOT A PERMISSIVE FATHER, who indulges His children when THEY ARE REBELLIOUS (not living according to His ways).**

The history of Israel is one of God protecting, fighting for and providing for those called as His very own.

- with Abraham, as God gave him favor among the kings in the land of his sojourning.
- with Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph
- in the deliverance of Israel from their bondage in Egypt
- the 40 years in the wilderness
- the establishment of Israel in the promise land
- we see this very dramatically in the live of David - Goliath and when he was running from Saul.

God wonderfully provided for and protected Israel; and still does to this very day. **BUT**, the thing that God WANTED for Israel was to COMPLETELY SUBDUE and put down their enemies once and for all; BUT He COULD NOT because they would not hearken (listen carefully, diligently and attentively with an attitude of obedience) to Him and walk in His ways (vs. 11, 13).

Verse 11 & 12 of Psalm 81 is the EPITAPH of Israel.

"But my people would not hearken to my voice: and Israel would have none of me. SO I GAVE THEM UP UNTO THEIR OWN HEARTS' LUST: AND THEY WALKED IN THEIR OWN COUNSELS."

NOW, our Father God desires to do for us what He desired to do for Israel and COULD NOT. God desires to completely SUBDUE the enemies in our lives and provide for us according to His riches in glory in Jesus Christ. To give us His very BEST. Notice verse 14 says, "I should SOON"...

**In Jesus Christ, God has already made PROVISION FOR THIS.**

The CROSS OF CALVARY, not only, brings us the good news of salvation from the condemnation of our sin - BUT, ALSO, stands before us as our BANNER OF COMPLETE VICTORY.

The CROSS OF CALVARY tells us that Jesus Christ by His death has destroyed the works of Satan; He has rendered Satan useless and set the captives free. Amen?

It is my prayer for you as you begin this discipleship course, that you will attentively, carefully and diligently with an attitude of obedience listen to the voice of your Father God and walk in HIS WAYS, so that, THE EPITAPH written over Israel will not be written over you.

Our Father God is coming to you and He is saying to you even as He said to Israel:

**'HEAR, O MY PEOPLE, AND I WILL TESTIFY UNTO THEE...'**

God would TESTIFY unto you of the things HE WOULD DO FOR you and of WHAT HE EXPECTS OF you, so that, what He wants to do will become a REALITY IN YOUR LIVE.

#### **A. What does our Father God want to do for us?**

1. He wants to rid our lives of gods and the worship of them. (verse 9)
  - a. "THERE SHALL NO STRANGE GOD BE IN THEE:"
  - b. "NEITHER SHALT THOU WORSHIP ANY STRANGE GOD."
2. God wants to DEMONSTRATE HIS POWER in our (verse 10),
  - "I AM THE LORD THY GOD, WHICH BROUGHT THEE OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT: OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE, AND I WILL FILL IT."
3. God wants TO QUICKLY (SOON): (verses 14,15)
  - a. SUBDUE our enemies
  - b. Turn His band against our adversaries
  - c. Bring those who hate Him (unbelievers) into submission and obedience unto Him
4. God wants to give us His BEST. (verse 16)

**B. What does our Father God EXPECT of us?**

THE **KEY** which opens the door, so that, God may do for us WHAT HE WANTS TO DO is to: (verse 8, 13)

1. HEARKEN UNTO HIM, listen:

- a. carefully
- b. attentively
- c. attitude of obedience

2. WALK IN HIS WAYS - Direct the course of our lives according to WAYS which He has revealed in His Word.

**SUMMARY:** God would have done all of these things for Israel if they would have hearkened to Him and walked in His ways. But it did not become a reality in the life of Israel because they did not. Neither, will the abundant life which the Lord Jesus Christ came to give us become a REALITY IN OUR LIVES if we do not hearken to Him and walk in His ways. Amen?

**II. GOD'S PLAN (WAYS) REVEALED****A. INTRODUCTION**

Our Father God has a PLAN FOR OUR LIVES which is guaranteed to bring success, joy, happiness, and complete fulfillment. Psalm 18 verse 30 says that His way is perfect - that is - it is a tried and proven way.

If we will order the course of our lives "LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN," all that we do will be successful.

In the following lessons the Holy Spirit will be revealing in detail this way, Plan of God for us.

Briefly, at this point, we would say that for us this plan has its beginning in **FAITH**.

**B. GOD'S PLAN (WAYS)**

1. FAITH IS THE BASIS AND FOUNDATION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

- a. Definition of Faith
  - (1) Hebrews 11:1
  - (2) Galatians 2:20
- b. Faith towards God - Hebrews 11:6
  - (1) believe that God is
  - (2) a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.
- c. BY FAITH we have been saved from the condemnation of our sin
  - Ephesians 2:8,9

- d. The just shall live by Faith - Romans 1:17
  - (1) the just
  - (2) shall live
  - (3) by Faith
  - (4) 2 Corinthians 5:7
  
- e. Hearing of Faith - Galatians 3:2,5

**LESSON 2- GOD'S PLAN FOR RELEASING YOUR FAITH**

In lesson one, from Psalms 81:8-16, we laid the foundation for this course of study, **LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN.**

Psalm 81 gives us a glimpse of our Father God's heart and reveals to us that:

- 1. Our Father God **DESIRES** to protect, defend, and fight for His children - to **SUBDUE** all their enemies.
- 2. Our Father God **DESIRES** to give His children the very **BEST**.

**QUESTION:** If our Father God **DESIRES** to **SUBDUE** completely, all the enemies in our lives and **DESIRES** to **FILL** us and **GIVE** us His very **BEST**, **WHY DOESN'T HE DO IT?** Is it because He is not capable - does not have the ability to do what He desires to do?

**OUR GOD IS ABLE!!** Our Father is the Awesome God - the Creator of the heavens and earth. He is the One who delivered Israel from Egypt; who parted the Red Sea; who upholds this universe by the Word of His power.

**IS THERE NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE WITH OUR GOD? NO!!! NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH HIM.** The only things impossible for our God is the limitations which He, Himself has placed on Himself. God will never act contrary to His nature and character. Amen!!

If God, then, is able **WHY?**

**COULD IT BE THAT WE HIS CHILDREN DO NOT DESIRE TO HAVE OUR ENEMIES SUBDUED AND DO NOT DESIRE THE VERY BEST?**

Again the answer is a resounding **NO!!** Don't you desires this, I know that I certainly do?

**WHY?** If it is God's desire and likewise our desire, why doesn't He do it?

The question, "**WHY DOESN'T HE DO THE THINGS WHICH HE DESIRES TO DO?**", is the wrong question.

The question we should be asking is "**WHAT IS KEEPING ME FROM THE COMPLETE REALITY OF GOD'S DESIRES BECOMING A REALITY IN MY LIFE?**"

**YOU SEE, the things that God, your Father, desires for you, the subduing of all your enemies and the giving you His very best, has already been accomplished in Jesus Christ.**

- I John 3:8
- Hebrews 2:14-15
- Galatians 3:13
- Isaiah 53:5

- II Corinthians 8:9
- Luke 1:74

God has already provided these things in Jesus Christ. ***He has subdued and defeated all your enemies. He has made it possible for you to have His very best.***

**SO THE QUESTION IS NOT**, "Why doesn't our Father do it?", BUT RATHER, "What is keeping me from realizing the reality of what He has already made available for me, His child?

To answer this we must **First** realize that **God is a God of ORDER** and would establish His order, His ways in our lives. So, God, in His infinite wisdom developed a plan, a system, whereby if followed by His children would result in them ENJOYING the fulness of His provisions for them.

Therefore, if we will order the course of our lives according to God's plan, we will realize the reality of having our enemies subdued and we will be enjoying the best our Father has for us.

Now, ordering our lives according to His ways, has it's beginning in **FAITH**. Faith is the Basis and Foundation of our Relationship with our Father God. It is Faith Towards God. Faith is believing that God is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do.

**Paul in Romans 1:17 puts it very simply, "...the just, shall live by FAITH.**

a. the just - those whose sins have been washed by the blood of Jesus, who through faith have been born again

b. shall live - life as opposed to death - John 10:10

(1) resurrection life

(a) Romans 8:11

(b) Ephesians 2:1, 8

(2) abundant life - which life is to enjoy all the BENEFITS OF CALVARY; enjoying all the PROVISIONS God has for you.

(3) The difference between resurrection life and abundant life may be seen in the following example.

Resurrection life is like having an unlimited amount of money in your checking account. The abundant life is to those who know how to get the money out of the account, so that they can make use of it.

Every child of God has "Resurrection Life". When a person through the working of the Holy Spirit, through the Word, creates faith in his heart which receives Jesus as his personal Savior from sin death and hell, the Spirit of Life entered into his spirit bringing the resurrection life of Jesus. Thus that born again child of God has resurrection life.

However, the Abundant Life is to those who have been justified, having resurrection life in them AND WHO ARE LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN (Psalm 81:13-16)

IF the foundation of our relationship with God and thus the KEY which opens the door to the abundant life is FAITH or the exercising of FAITH, WHAT, THEN, IS GOD'S PLAN (WAY) FOR THE RELEASING (EXERCISING) OF OUR FAITH.

The ways to release faith runs from the pure humanistic view of the power of positive thinking, to those who say that to release your faith there must be a point of contact (that is, you must be believing for something specific - or if you can visualize in your mind whatever you are believing for, you can have it. Name it and claim theology.)

For sure we need to have positive thinking and be specific about what we want are asking for in prayer. BUT, neither positive thinking nor being specific is the KEY for releasing your faith for the Abundant Life.

### **GOD'S PLAN FOR RELEASING FAITH**

- a. FAITH IS RELEASED BY LOVE, Galatians 5:6  
(1) worketh - (lit. GK. energo - energized)  
(2) love - (lit. Gk. agape - selfless, self sacrificing love, acts of love, charity)
- b. LOVE (CHARITY) COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SIN,  
I Peter 4:8  
Romans 13:8-10

### **END of Series**

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