

Pastor Brian:

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Man. I'm gonna have to have a sign that says, pastor Brian <laugh>, I'm gonna make one for every Sunday, even if I'm back there. If I happen to be up here. <Laugh>, <laugh>. No. If I had a tie on, I'd go. I You no respect. No respect at all. <Laugh> welcome, right? What a great song. I mean, yes. See, I've not only forgotten Billy's name. I've forgotten the song. No. <laugh> <laugh>. No. I mean, God is our one defense. Our righteousness. Oh my gosh. How we need God every day. All right. So welcome. Those are here. Those that are online obviously I'm gonna start with an update you guys wanna know about Pastor Branson. Pastor Branson was admitted to Morton Plant on Sunday afternoon. You guys that were here, of course, I got this all by mouth to ear on Sunday, cuz I wasn't here.

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I was covering at another church and of all days to cover at another church. Now he was having some pain on stage. And so he went and bless his heart, went and did a double funeral right after that. And then went to a grandchild's birthday party and then was taken to Morton Plan. He's doing fine. They're just running multiple tests to find out what's actually causing the pain. But I just talked to him maybe a half hour ago and he is having a blast. I'm not kidding you. I'm not kidding you. He, he said, I'm having a ball in here. Cause I finally see from your perspective, he is just talking to and witnessing to nurse, after nurse after nurse. And you know, sometimes God will move us to a place we don't know why, but it'll be to talk to somebody.

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It might not, it might just be one person in 50 nurses. You know, it might take four or five days to do maybe one thing. But what I do know is that he's in good hands. He sounds great, and he should be back with us very soon. Just he said no visitors, but you can call him or text him if you want, but just, I know you guys are already doing this cuz your church loves him. Pray for him. Just pray. Just pray. Okay, well, that's yeah, that's the, that's what better update than that is to find out about your pastor. So, yes, he's doing great. He sounds, he sounds great, him and I have talked all week and I made a joke. I said, you know, I feel like when I, if I go visit him or I'm on the phone, I feel like just taking out a notepad.

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Okay? All right. Got it, got it, got it, got it. I mean, he, he never stops. Yeah. And it's wonderful. Matter of fact, I covered a funeral service for him today, and I said, yep, I've got everything I want my way. And then he not only tells me where I'll be, he tells me of a restaurant that I'll be near <laugh>. I'm like, now he's telling me where to go eat so great, because the salads there are wonderful. And I did. I I, I, it was a good reminder. I said, yes, I will stop by there and pick something up. And I did. So if he says, eat somewhere, eat somewhere. He knows his restaurants, he knows his food. He is an expert. All right, well, we have two left in our series including one tonight. And I will be out of town next week.

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We've debated on whether we should go, but it's a, it's a conference for our kids area and for our youth. And I'm, I'm going as an in-between and I, we've kind of toggled with should we cancel it under the circumstances. And he has urged me to go. So with two left, we've got tonight, and then he will be with you. And I notice not maybe he will be with you next Wednesday night. And you guys will probably be back there because he'll be doing carpet next week. So praise God for that. So when I come back on May 3rd, we will complete making a comeback. So glad you're with us tonight. Glad that those that are online are online. So we are oh. And by the way the rest of May will be discipleship Impact 1 0 2.

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So if you, if you just took 101 or, or you haven't taken 102 and you want, those will start the, the, from the, I think it's the 10th to the rest of May. So sign up for discipleship 102. It's under what is it? Just learning about God's word and faith. Just two weeks on faith and two weeks on just studying the Bible. So that'll be the rest of May. So you do have a signup sheet out in the lobby. Go ahead and sign up for that. We are continuing our discussion on the ingredients of a comeback. We, we started the first five weeks with examples of comebacks from the Bible. And then we covered endurance and a little bit on wisdom. And last week we discussed patience. And so tonight we're gonna cover seeking God's direction and accepting his perspective.

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And I say in this particular series, and it should be just said all the, all the time guys won the victory. What are you worried about? Right? He's won the overall victory. Nothing to be afraid of, nothing to fear. Well, and we know we've been talking about like, why would we even need a comeback? Because life gets harder and it gets harder. World gets weirder and weirder. But with Jesus at the helm, and, and I'll quote Pastor Branson, not your co-pilot, but your pilot, when he's at the helm of your life, you're always gonna be comforted that he's in control. You comfort comes from knowing that he's in control. He wants us to experience a comeback in life. And many things are gonna get thrown into your path to disrupt what God wants for your life. So again, in a series called Making a Comeback tonight the eighth message is called Put on Your Spiritual 3D Glasses.

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Kind of a weird, weird or funny title but I was thinking how much I hated 3D as a kid. Do you remember the old creature from the Black Lagoon Movies? <Laugh>? Well, they were terrible and made worse by you. You'd get, you know, it'd come on like a Friday night, but you'd go to your local 7-Eleven and you would buy the little white plastic. One eye was red, the other was blue. Just made the screen look purple and nothing really jumped out at you. You know, those were, those were silly. But then came 1983 and we got Jaws three D. Yeah, no, I, I tell you, out of all the movies in history, my top three jaws is in there. Not the third one or anything that came after that, or, or before that, but except the first one. But it, it was the worst.

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It was the worst. And, and it always seemed, but I always had a willingness to try it. As a kid. I think I was, what, 13 at that time. I, I would try to. And so after that, I, I stayed away from 3d. I said, this is awful. It's not working. But then if you've gone lately, they've actually improved, gotten a lot better. I heard about Avatar 3d, never saw it, but heard they came out there. Well, the whole effect of 3D is to bring the images out of the screen and make you feel like you're part of the action, right? Making the movie feel more real. And, you know, when you take off your 3D glasses, the movie looks what? Fuzzy. It's not clear. It's not as clear as it's supposed to be. So when you take them off, it doesn't work as the way it's designed.

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Now, our spiritual life can be just like that. When we take our eyes off, God, we need to, in a sense, put on our spiritual 3D glasses. And more specifically, we need to wear our Holy Spirit lenses, our Holy Spirit glasses, and then look at life from God's perspective. Look at life from God's perspective. Then what happens then is we'll begin to see things fall into place and start, and things will start making sense. If we were to see things the way God does, not only would it if we were to say, okay, God, lemme see what you see. We'd go, whoa, that's frightening. Cuz we'd see how at work Satan really is in our world, but we'd also see how things make sense because we're seeing them the way God sees them. So when we look at life from God's perspective, we are able to see through or see past the storms better.

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We're in a series called Making a Comeback, getting off the mat after having been knocked down by life. And so looking at things from God's perspective, you can see past your storm. We view it with the strength, not fear. And I've said, none of us choose our storms. You know, you're like, you don't choose what you're gonna go through. You know, I'll choose. Branson didn't go, okay, I'll take that this week. No, it's, it happens and it you know, we have to do what God wants us to do in even a bad situation. But if we look at them, the way God looks at them will become stronger as people and as Christ's followers. So in a, making a comeback, as you go after your comeback, as you go after your comeback, you, you're gonna make plans. You're gonna make plans. And you want to plan your life in complete dependence upon God. You know, we're a planning people, and I'm gonna get into that. We should be a planning people, but our plans need to show God in all that we do and we'll, and this is what I'll explain in the next 40 something minutes. Our plans need to reflect his character. And the worst thing that we can do is be a double minded people. Like it says in the book of James, you know, do one thing act one way and then live another. And I'll give you a really bad example.

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It's existed in churches that I've been in before. Let's just say it that way. Bad example would be you attend church. You're, you're one of those, you're, you see 'em all the time. They're there every Sunday. They're every Wednesday, every event they're there, but they're also one that might visit a strip club. They are living one way and acting another. They are a double minded person. And that is the kind of thing that shows that we are not, we, if we are that type of person, we would not be asking God about our plans. We would not be including God in our plans. So unless you plan life with the lens of Jesus, your spiritual 3D glasses life is gonna be blurry and unclear, period. Without Jesus, we won't know what our next move will be. And people wonder why they're so miserable when we live without Jesus.

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When we plan without Jesus, when we do anything without Jesus, misery's gonna follow, misery's gonna follow. So in our, in our planning in life, let's explore how life looks from when we view it from God's perspective. So I've got four points that we'll see that as we plan, number one, we need to submit to God's sovereignty. James four 13 says, come now you who say, today or tomorrow, we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit. Okay, we're gonna stop there. So the starting point in planning anything is recognizing God's sovereignty. Sovereignty means to have supreme power or authority. And God has authority over all creation. There's nothing that he does not have authority over. And yet we have statements like I know that, but right, we do it. He has authority over all creation.

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And I know we say we believe that and will nod our heads and raise our hands and, mm, that was great. But does your mouth and your actions reflect that God has authority over everything in your life? Everything. Not, not most things, all of it. So tonight in prayer, make sure that he does. We're not in control. God is, Hey. Amen. Amen. Amen. So making plans without praying to Jesus for review is an act of arrogance or just plain forgetfulness, you know, and very dangerous, excluding God from our plans. When you look at verse 13, James seems to imply asking, did you even ask God? You know, when, when they say come now you who say, you know, those who say, we're gonna, I'm gonna do this, and tomorrow I'm gonna go see this and I'm gonna do that. And James is like saying, well, who, Hey, a second, did you ask God?

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Did you ask God? And so we've been talking about worldview versus a spiritual view. Making plans without seeking God's counsel reflects worldly thinking. Now, hang on. That can be us here in this room too. And not just, we always like to say, oh man, those non-believers, gosh, you know, and it's us too sometimes that we need to make sure that our plans reflect God's plans reflect God's authority in our lives. And so it shouldn't be a surprise. It to us, when, when lost people act in a worldly manner, I had a friend of mine a long time ago say, Brian, don't get mad. They don't know what, you know, they're just lost. And so I had to, that's a different perspective. And so they don't see the way a Christian is supposed to see. So being a world, if someone says, you know, I'm, I consider myself to be a worldly Christian, that's a contradiction.

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That's a contradiction. Because you can't be, and I, and I'll break it down this way, worldly Christian, I'll break it down this way. You can't be a worldly Christ follower, right? Right. Think about it. Christian means to follow Christ. And if I'm worldly, that just doesn't make sense. That means I'm gonna, you're either gonna follow one or you're gonna follow the other. So that is an incorrect statement. And anybody says, you know, I just, I just adapt. I'm a worldly Christian. You're contradiction. It's actually an oxymoron. And so there's a lot of oxymorons in the world. I mean, boons, <laugh> too. Yeah. So don't tell yourself tonight, woo, at least I'm not a worldly Christian. And then exclude God from your plans, right? Ouch. It comes down to control. And we don't have it, right? We don't have control over daily life. I can plan a vacation all day.

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And matter of fact, I have one coming up. Praise God that I have one coming, but I'm, I'm praying, Lord willing, I'm going to do this on such and such a date. Not like God. Okay? This is where I'm going. I'm so ti you know that. No, no, no. God willing, that's gonna happen. If God says no, it ain't gonna happen, then that's okay. But I don't have plan over it. I don't know in advance whether I'd even be in good health for him, right? We planned something. Branson had plans this week. Health changed it, and he's having a ball, right? Because he is looking from a different perspective, by nature, we are dependent upon everything. We're expecting to wake up tomorrow, right? For the car to start when you go to work or school for you to make it where you're going to safely, right?

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These are things that we don't think about, like we're okay. Gotta make it to work safely. First of all, I woke up, you know no, I mean, we, we just don't do that. But we expect it to. And, and when we get out there and we know we got a busy day ahead of us and the car doesn't start, we're like, ah, you know, blankety blank. But yeah, no, we're, we have no guarantee that the car is gonna start or, or that that's gonna happen or we're gonna get to where we're going safely. Whereby God is totally independent by nature. He is bound by nothing I've said before. He is outside of time. We are driven by time. What time did the service start tonight? What time does it end? Hopefully before seven. That guy, you know, it does <laugh>. What time's dinner, what time's lunch.

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What time's the game? We are bound by it. God is not, he is outside of that. He has, he has seen each and every one of our races already. He's God. So we might plan to fly somewhere, but that alone is dependent upon the airlines, the weather, and many other things we can't control. You know how many, I mean, and I'm not pointing cuz we've all done it. How many of you get there? You're flying somewhere and you're like, ah, canceled, delayed. I just don't have that kind of time. You know, it's gonna happen. Things are gonna get in the way. I'm not saying you didn't include God in your plans, but we have to be, okay. God, what do you want from me now? You know? So yeah, we can't control these

things. And, and, and like I said, we get so mad when the plans change, but you know, sometimes God might have been included and they might not have been included in the plans. You can't get through life without making plans. But there are too many uncertainties for us to say confidently that the plans will happen until they actually happen. Like the thing, we have so many plans here at church. We know that we're gonna have service Sunday morning. We've actually got plans to build something. These are things, you know, God expects you to do while you serve and wait for his return. You know, you just said, okay, God's coming to get me.

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No, he wants you to do, he wants you to plan, but include him. Make him sovereign over all of your plans. And God doesn't condemn human planning. He doesn't condemn your planning. He urges us to plan, but he is the author of the eternal timetable. We have to understand that. So in our planning, when we view life from God's perspective, we'll also see number two, like I said, we've got four points tonight. So I'm, I'm not gonna move super fast, but we're gonna get through 'em. Number two is we need to know the dangers. When we exclude God, we need to know the dangers of when we exclude God. Remember the old show, danger will Robinson danger. You knew when that robot said that? You're like, uhoh, right? Okay, so James four 14, yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.

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So, so James say, okay, so you who say, we're gonna do this. We're gonna go at such and such time, we're gonna party it up. Woohoo. Yet you don't know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life for? You are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Man, thank you James. You know, right? You're just, you're just a mist. You're only, and that's another way of saying who has not said in their life, man, time is flying, right? Yeah. I mean, where did the time go? How did I get to be age 53? You know where, because that you are a mist, that appears for a little time and advantages, and God's telling you whatever time that is, I've got stuff for you to do. So as I mentioned, it's not sinful to plan and it's unwise to not plan.

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But God does not condemn he, oh, I'm sorry. He does condemn any planning that leaves him out. That leaves him out. And you might say, well, wait, say nah, I'm, I'm confused. I don't leave him out. Or we're gonna get into the verses that kind of explain like a step by step what to do. But making plans without God is like, this is like hiking without a map or setting sail in the ocean without a compass. Where you going? I have no clue. <Laugh>. You know what'll happen if you don't have a map or a compass? You're gonna get lost. Gonna get lost. And so what happens when a team plays without practicing, they're gonna lose. What? Okay? And I use this in a men's study. What happens when you join a military service and they tell you, okay, we're gonna, you're gonna bypass basic training and we're sending you right off to war.

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How successful will that soldier be? Not, not, not at all. He'll be a total failure. So without God included in our plans, they will fall apart. They will fall apart. Now, you might say, I plan all the time, and I, and I don't pray for God's will. And the plan went fine. You know, sometimes it, it just might, but eventually you'll find yourself far from the path of life here, Psalm 1611, you'll find yourself far from the path of life that God designed for each of us. You, you guys like puzzles? Same. Anybody here like puzzles? All, all right? If not, if you haven't, well, I've never done a puzzle. At least you've seen one. So you're gonna understand the analogy here. Well, life like a puzzle has many pieces right now to put together. And I'm talking regular, not on your phone or anything.

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I'm like the old school. Clear, clear, the coffee table, we're gonna do a puzzle. And it's I think my max is 500 pieces, but there, there are people out there, oh, I can do 3000 of my sleep. So to put any puzzle together, you have to know the end result, right? Where do you get the end result on the puzzle box, right? You go, all right, that's what it's supposed to look like. Okay? So you can't put the, the puzzle together without that help. So the puzzle makers complete a picture on the box lid, and God, like the puzzle makers helps us put the pieces together, right? You cannot, and you cannot force a piece to fit where it doesn't. And you, I know we've all been there, you've been like, I, this, I know this goes here and you're taking that little piece and you're bending that, and then all of a sudden you get the, remember, you know the frayed ones.

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Yeah. <laugh>, okay? Yeah. And so you're just, you're shoving that in there and you can't force it where it doesn't fit because it wasn't designed that way. Now, I'm not going into that message, but it's a true picture of what people are trying to do with their life in the current state of things, right? Hello? The simple lesson here is that life without including God is a sign of worldliness, which is sinful when things happen that we don't anticipate. And it does. And chances are we won't know how to handle it if we haven't allowed a place for him in our plans. That's like your prayer life. If you have not properly had a good solid quiet time or good devotion time or prayer time, don't be surprised when you reach a crisis and you don't know how to handle it. That is what those are designed for to get us.

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Why do we sing songs at the beginning of a service? Cuz that's what to do. That's what the order of service says. No, you're preparing your heart for what God wants you to hear. You know, it's the same with devotions. The reason it's so urgent, so crucial to have a quiet time where you're reading God's word all of the time, is because he knows this is in front of you, Brian. This is coming. And if you don't know what I'm talking about or where I am, you're gonna be miserable. You're not gonna know how to handle yourself. And so that's why like it said in verse 14, our knowledge is limited. We don't, we we're, we're limited. We are a finite people. So how can we plan our comeback if we're not letting God in on our daily life? The answer. You can't.

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You can't, you can't. You know, I, I get teased a lot by Pastor Branson just in general. That's a, that's a blanket statement. I get teased a lot by Pastor Branson. Throw Billy in there as well. And it's just that's what happens here. But cuz well one, I was gonna say, he teases me when I'll do an Easter message in the middle of the year, or I'll do a Christmas message in the middle of the year. And I'm, my defense is, Hey, I'm keeping everybody on their toes. And, and it's one of those things where why do you have to wait for that time of year to have that kind of message? You, I I say you can't. You don't have to. You can do it anytime. However, when Christmas does arrive, I know that many around here your favorite is Christmas vacation, right?

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Okay. So do you remember how Clark spent his bonus before he even got his bonus? I've always, even before putting this together, I've al you know, I'll watch it. I'll go, gosh, that's, that's poor planning. Don't spend what you don't have. You know, but, but we've done that, right? We're like, oh, man, when I get my IRS check, I am I am gone. I did that once and I was on, I mean, my eyes became dollar signs, like the <inaudible>, you know? And I thought, first vacation in ever. And I, and I kid you not, I've told this story before, but it is not made up. I am on the way to the bank to deposit. This is before you could deposit my phone, by the way. I'm on the way to, to deposit that check. And the car broke down and the repair was, could you not?



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Within five to 10, \$15, somewhere in that range was the amount of the check. And at first I'm like, oh man, a vacation taken away from me yet again. But then I humbled myself and I realized, you know what? I wouldn't have had it otherwise. That was God going, I know what's ahead of you. I need you to, to, to look to me, you know, don't plan your own stuff. You're excluding me and I'm gonna show you what happens. And so, yes, those are, those are lessons we learned along life. But Clark spent his bonus without getting his bonus. He was counting on it. He was expecting it. And that he made all these plans that he, he was, he was sure. And when, and when he learned he wasn't getting what he spent, he was devastated. Some might say, went crazy, right? If you remember, he was out.

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Lots of money. So, smart planning is God's planning, but without God, it's foolish planning, foolish planning. Don't spend what you don't have. Don't plan what you don't have, include God. And we're gonna get, you gonna get to the verses, trust me. And many times we can seem to be like the psalmist in chapter 73, remarking how wicked people seem to, to get what they want and things always go their way. You've been that kind of person. Why my neighbor gets everything they want, and they're hateful. You know, they don't, they don't suffer. They don't stumble. You know, I've, I've been there. So it's okay to admit if you have so Psalm 73, 3 is saying, for, I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. I say, man, I was so angry because they're rich and they're getting everything they want, you know, and I we're struggling or whatever, you know, and, and so that's the Psalms.

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But then God showed him how wrong he was, and he changed his tune in verse 22. So Psalm 73, 22 says, I was brutish and ignorant, right? The person was saying, I can't stand the way. They're not getting, they're getting away with everything. I was brutish and ignorant. I was like a beast toward you. So when the psalmist saw how things really were, he put on his 3D glasses and he got to see how God sees things. And he stepped back a bit almost to say like, I'm sorry I acted that way. So we're to lean on God's infinite knowledge because ours is limited, our knowledge is limited, and our days are too. What'd it say earlier? We're here just a mist. A vapor. Some translations might say that means not very long in the scheme of things. I mean, it was just yesterday I was 18 talking to Pastor Branson.

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Now I'm 53 talking to Pastor Branson. So where did it go? Proverbs 27, 1 says, do not boast about tomorrow for you do not know what a day may bring. It's right along with James, you know, don't say, oh man, we're gonna do this next week, man, we were gonna, I'm gonna go to the baseball game next week. I can't wait to see that team play my team. And yet it's foolish if I don't plan it under what God wants to, I may not actually go to that game or whatever. So here, it's something I wrote a couple days ago, I was just thinking it said, none of us, none of us know what tomorrow will bring, right? That's what the verse said. But all of us think we know what tomorrow will bring, right? We all, we think we do, but we have to include God and our plans. Include him in your plans. He knows what we don't know.

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That's pretty cool. For example, if you're a traveler on the roads around here, especially you have to check traffic reports. You have to look at your gps. That might give you an alternate when things aren't good. If you have to travel across the bay, many days things aren't good. I remember those days where I had to travel from here to Brandon or Brandon to here, and it's, it's a Turkey shoot, whether it's Gandy Howard Franklin or, or what's the other one? The Causeway Frank. Yeah, yeah. Howard Frank. Yeah. Frankenstein. Yeah. And a lot of times when Frankenstein is backed up, what happens? These other

backup. So you have to consult, whether it's a news report or gps, otherwise you're gonna get stuck. So likewise, rely on God who can see and know everything, right?

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Whatever God, PS you know, let, let, let God be your gps. So you can't change your past or you're yesterday, but today, and where you're headed, you don't have, it doesn't have to look like yesterday. It doesn't have to look like if you depend upon God's perfect will. Now, if you, if you do the same thing that, I mean, whether they say doing the same thing without changing anything, it's the definition of insanity. You know, I don't know why things are so bad. Have you changed anything? No, but I just don't know why they're so bad. You know? That's just a, a horrible picture of what sometimes it can be like when we don't wanna make changes. We have to have to have to depend on God's perfect will. So continuing in our planning, when we view life from God's perspective, we'll also see number three, we need to defer to God's will.

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So here it is, James four 15 says, instead, so, 13 to 14 came before. Instead, you ought to say, or you ought to pray like this. If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that. So like the first verse would've been, if the Lord wills, we will go into such and such a town and spend such and such and make such and such a prophet. But it's basically saying, God willing, I will take that vacation. God willing, we will have this done or whatever. It's, it's wise, good wisdom to defer to God's will always. But even when making plans for your future, you know, we often just, that's just something we do. And we forget to include him without thinking. We're forgetting to include him. So the words, if the Lord wills shouldn't just be words to make you sound more spiritual, they reflect in your attitude.

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Matter of fact, you don't have to go crazy with it. Lord willing, I'm going to Burger King for lunch. You know, you don't have to go that extreme. Lord says, you wanna go to Burger King, go to Burger King. But it's an attitude that says, Jesus, here are my plans, but I submit them to your will because your greatness is infinite. I am not right. I am not. God is infinite. We are whatever age we are. So how can you go? How can you go wrong submitting your plans to the Lord? You can't, if you leave him out, you'll miss out, right? I mean, it's, it's that simple and that hard. You leave him out, you'll miss out. You could miss an instruction or you'll come back or miss out on his protection when danger comes, nah, I think I can go this way.

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And well, they are in an accident. So, you know who, you know, people in your life or, or who are rigid and inflexible, a again, don't point to them, <laugh>, they're tough because they don't leave room for anybody, especially God when they plan. Let's look at Romans 12. Two, do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal or the renewing of your mind. That by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. So don't be conformed, don't follow the crowd, right? Don't follow the crowd, but by be renewing your mind. And, and of course, how do we get our mind renewed? We stay in the word we, we are here on Wednesday. We are here on Sunday. We're here whenever we have an event. And so, and then, then testing comes and you'll be able to discern what the will of God is.

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I did a message at this other church on the testing of your faith. We, our faith is often tested. And so when we include God's will in all that we do you'll know God's satisfaction. He's, he will, his will is so satisfying because it's acceptable and perfect. And if you're not feeling that it, there are things to tweak.



I know that I've, I've had to do that cuz we just don't think that we're excluding him. Kinda like I said to a youth group a long time ago, I said, nobody's gonna say out loud, I'm smarter than God. Of course, I did have a smart Alec that tried to say it, but I proved him wrong. No one's gonna say out loud that I'm smarter than God. But when you do things that you want to do that you know, that are outside what God wants you to do, you're saying, I got this.

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God, we can be very arrogant sometimes Christians and non-Christians. So again, the repeated lesson is that God truly wants us to know his will, but not just to know his will, to understand his will, understand his will. There's a huge disconnect in our lives of course and in the world, but he wants us to obey his will. There's, there's a disconnect between just knowing it and putting in action or understanding it. So he wants us to obey his will. He wants us to have an intimate relationship with him. Psalm 103:7 talks about the intimate relationship that he had with Moses. He made verse seven of 103, he made known his way to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. He told Moses, okay, here's what I, I'm gonna guide you. Here's what I want you to do. And then Moses would tell the people, and then the people would complain, you know that, that's a picture of regular 2023.

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You know, we, I'm, I'm telling you about planning, and then you're gonna go, you know what, I'm gonna plan the way I always have. Okay? All right. Well former Israelite <laugh> for you to grow in Christ, you also have to have an intimate relationship with Jesus. There's, there's no getting around that. There's no good a service I did today. I'm constantly reading the verse. I am the way. Thomas said, how do we, we don't know the way how, and I always tell the, the group that maybe might be not in church people, I say, Thomas sometimes represents us. Wait, wait a second. We don't know the way. How can we know the way? And Jesus answers about as clear as you can answer anything, I am the way, I am the truth. I am the way there. You are not gonna get to heaven except going through me.

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It is as clear as a bell. Okay? And so he, he, he speaks through people, but you have to have an intimate relationship with him. So if you're a Sunday morning only kind of person or some variation of that then you're not letting him in fully. And when, and, and, and here's another stinging moment. If we're not letting him fully, God's gonna say, fine. Do it on your own. Do it on your own. Okay? Yeah. Don't, don't let me get in the way. You know, if you don't need me, then you don't need me. Go ahead and do it, and then watch what happens. Watch what happens. Fine. Do it on your own. So moving to the last point in our planning, when we view life from God's perspective, we'll see number four, we need to honor God's holiness.

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You know, I've said before, there are words that are great, but the way we use them almost sound like they're taking away. Like we sing. God is an awesome God, he reigns. But the game yesterday was awesome. The movie I just watched was awesome. Where's the differentiation? Awesome. God man, is an awesome movie. But it's in our how we reflect and, and, and it's supposed to be not awesome, but awe, like bowing in awe. It's the fainting goat story. You ever seen those in Florida where, you know, you scare 'em and their legs stiffer and they just topple, right? I mean, Google is the funniest thing in the world. I mean, it's the funniest thing in the world. But I read, I heard pastor say, okay, that's great. And, and you put men out in a group like that, they're all gonna go, ha and watch these things just topple over.

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Now, if you went to that particular park and they said, okay, we've got a new area for you. It's called the fainting lions. How quick would you be to jump in? They go, okay. Ha. Oh, that didn't work. Why, why is that? Why, why do I stop and go, okay, goat, you're mine, lion. I don't think so. Here's why. Because there's a respect for something that's going to devour me, right? There's an awe that sometimes we forget to put into play when we're talking about God, the creator of the heavens and the earth. You know, like, oh, thank you, God, no, no, no. It should never be casual. He's God, right? So man, honor, God's holiness, James four 16 through 17, as it is, you boast in your arrogance and all boasting is evil, right? I mean, right there, I didn't say it.

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God did through James, okay? He said, as it is, you are boasting in your arrogance. And all boasting is evil. Verse 17. So whoever knows the right thing to do, you know God's will and fails to do it for him or her. It is sin. I've said that if you know God is telling you to do something and you don't do it, period name, amen. It's sin. You know? Well, you know, you know, I told a a, a white lie, I'm not a liar. Go spend some time on that. Two o'clock morning, be like, oh, now I see what he meant. But I've said that, but this is God saying it, right? So, you know, you can dismiss, you can dismiss what I said, but right there in the Bible. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it for him, it is sin, period.

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He is very clear here. Godless planning is not just bad planning, it's sinful, it's unholy, and it's evil. Like, gosh, that's, that's not good news. No. We insult God when we deliberately exclude him from our lives, right? Why are we so shocked then when stuff arrives that leaves us in tears? Like, I've excluded God. Oh my gosh, I why is this happening? We exclude him and we don't realize we are. That's why it's so important to be in a Bible teaching church and separate Bible studies whether it's a life group, first Friday, an event, the picnic on Saturday, whatever, be involved and just soak up everything God has for you to soak up. We also need to understand that God is distinct from his creation. Now he is with us and he is close to us and he loves us, but there's a dividing line between us and him.

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So kinda like, like parents as parents, you don't always tell your kids everything, right? You, you, you leave things out for their safety, for their protection. You don't tell 'em you, you know, when, when, when a close family member pass away, you don't tell them right away. You judge the situation and there's things you withhold from them. We don't everything. So we're reserving the right to keep things private from them. God also reserves the right as creator to step in and ask us to obey even when we might not understand what he's asking us to do or what's going on. Like, I don't, I I need to know more. God, no, you don't. I'm just, I'm protecting you. And so parents do it, and, and it's a right move for parents to do. So why doesn't we go, wait, God didn't, he didn't clue me in. He's leaving me out. And, and no, no. There are some things he's not going to tell you for your safety, for your protection. So yeah, even when we don't know what's going on. So why would he do that? Because his perfect be because he is perfect and we can trust him.

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I'm gonna say it. Yeah, thank you. We're not gonna say it any clearer than that. He is perfect and we trust that perfectness. So when we do the opposite, this is what can happen. People within begin to brag about how they don't need God, and they give off the impression that they can do things that they really can't. You know, I created this empire. Me, no, God allowed you to do it. He gave you things, gave you gifts, gave you finances to be able to do it. Jeremiah 9 23 through 24 says, thus says the Lord, let not the wise man boast in his wisdom. Let not the mighty man boast in his might. Let not the rich man boast

in his riches, but let him who boast in this, that he understands and knows me, but knows God, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice and righteousness in the earth.

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For in these things I delight, declares the Lord. Amen. In other words, don't brag that you have a lot of possessions. God can take it away from you. In a heartbeat. In a heartbeat. Luke 12 16, 2 through 21, this is familiar. And he told them a parable. This is Jesus telling them a parable, saying the land of a rich man produced plentifully. And he thought to himself, what shall I do for I have nowhere to store my crops? And he said, I will do this. I will tear down my barns and I will build larger ones. And there I will notice none, not one of it says, Lord willing, if the Lord wills, I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and then I will store all my grain and my goods. And then I will say to my soul, I love this even underlying, like, wow.

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I will say to my soul, soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years. Relax, eat, drink, and be merry. I wrote in the sidelines, soul coast, just coast. You got it made just coast. And, and what happens when we coast? We don't grow spiritually, right? God saved me. I'm just gonna wait for him to come get me. You are gonna miss out. You're gonna miss out. I had a friend of mine that says, yeah, you're gonna be saved, but you're gonna be like sweeping the, the, the, the gold streets, streets have. You'll be sweeping 'em at the gate. You know I know that's, that's, you know, it's not true, but it's like saying there's so much more to life to live for him, right? Crowns to be given to you. So there are stuff that he, there are things he has to do.

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So yeah, relax, I love the soul. You have enough, you have ample goods and laid it for many years. Just chill. Just chill, relax, eat, drink, and be merry number verse 20. But God said to him, fool, okay, this is, this is, this is God, fool, idiot. This night, your soul is required of you. You had no idea this was your last day and the things you have prepared, who's are they gonna be? Who's they gonna be? Verse 21. So is the one who lays up treasure for himself. So, okay, who's will they be? So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God. The statement, if I only had, and fill in the blank, if I only had these riches, if I only could win the lottery. That statement is a foolish statement because if you know Jesus, you have richest beyond your wildest dreams.

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You, what did we talk about earlier in the series? You have access to the Holy Spirit that you are not accessing many times. So yes, never be one that says, oh, if I only had this, everything would be cool. It wouldn't, if you don't have Jesus or if you have Jesus, but you're making plans without him, still not gonna be great. So again, God isn't against our planning for our future, nor is he offended when a dream, just don't leave him out of the plans or the dreams like the rich man wanted to do. You know, I'm gonna coast and relax. Oh, wait, wait a second. What your shoulders required of you tonight. All these plans are now for nothing because God wasn't included in them. So I, I know that you don't want to be foolish in your plans for your life and, and, and don't let pride get into your planning and keep you away from your comeback.

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I I know you seriously, deep down, don't want that on, on those that are online. You don't want that for yourself. So always plan. Yes, but do it according to God's will do it. According to God's will put on your spiritual 3D glasses. They're actually better now. They're like just dark. They're not red and blue anymore. So put on your spiritual 3D glasses and see things the way God does see things the way God

does. Amen. Submit to his authority in all things. Not well. I am submitting it to his authority in this part of my life and this part of my life and this part of my life. But I'm gonna keep this part of life for myself. Yeah. How's that part going? And you'll see, so all things, all things submit, his authority and all things rely on his infinite knowledge and defer to his will.

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So, Lord willing, we will have a picnic Saturday, Lord willing, we will be back in here on Sunday morning. Lord willing, Branson will be outta the hospital very soon. Amen. Amen. That way you're honoring God's holiness. Let's pray. Our Father, thank you so much for all that you do, all that you've done and all that you're doing ahead of us, Lord, thank you. I just asked for blessings for those that are here, for those that are online. Lord, yes, we've all been guilty of just not thinking that we're excluding you, but Lord, we just somehow end up excluding you, Lord. But these verses point to us and tell us what we've done wrong in our past, and we have a chance to turn it and change it today, Lord. So in from going forward, we will all of our plans, Lord willing, God willing you willing we will just be that kind of people Lord.

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So that we can be a great example to, to those that don't know you, that are planning outside of you. Lord, help us to be that way, Lord. So I just asked for blessing for those that are here, for their families, wherever they may be bless them. Bring them back here. If, if, if you found this church and you, you looking for a church, Lord, we ask them that they've looked no further, that they will continue to come here. And we just thank you for, for sending your son to die for us, Lord. Without that we would not be here talking about making plans under your name. So, Lord, thank you for the gift of Jesus. And we just ask you, Lord, keep us moving forward to be the best Christ followers you made us to be. In Jesus name I ask Amen. Amen.

[\(00:59:35\):](#)

Okay couple of things. Because of the things going on this week, we've had to flip flop a lot of stuff and tomorrow's one of them. No round table tomorrow. I've had to take a service from Branson, and so I'm gonna do that. I changed a couple of plan, so yeah, no round there'll be a message to remind you. But no round table tomorrow the picnic, that's Saturday from 10 to two. And I, I tell people it often doesn't go to two. You guys have proven, once you eat, you're like, you know, <laugh>. So, but instead of using our bouncy house, we are gonna have a water slide bouncy house for the kids. So that means what wasn't quite planned before, bring you know, swimsuit for them, bring a towel, change of clothes. We won't have the a means to have changing rooms or anything like that.

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So Brenton thought it would be great to have a water slide. So we are gonna have a water slide. So just have your kids prepare for that with clothes. You prepare for that. Now here's, here's another, here's another big one. Here's another big one. Sunday Lord willing, after our service, we need to get these chairs into the fellowship hall. Okay? So I'm gonna need quite a few people. We only have one hand truck, so you can grab one here, one if you're able. And we need to get every chair, but 40 chairs. I'm gonna leave 40 chairs for Pastor Ramon for Iva. And then once they're done, they'll move the rest of 40 chairs. So that's one thing I wanna do Sunday after church again, Lord willing. See, see what I'm trying to do there. I'm trying to put it into practice. So we need to prepare and take all of these chairs outta here, except for 40 on Sunday after church. Me and some of the others could really use your help doing that. So thank you so much, and we'll see you Sunday or Saturday at the picnic. All right?