



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### Discovering God's Will

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1. Every Christian must learn to navigate using God's Word, which is very necessary to find God's perfect will.
2. The Four (4) Wills of God
  - A. God's Sovereign Will
    - All of God's creation is governed by God's natural law.
  - B. God's Moral Will
    - It is knowing what is right and wrong. The Lord has already placed this in our minds and hearts.
  - C. God's Personal Will
    - This is God's plan for all of us. He created us for we have specific roles to play in our particular settings and our destination is heaven if we follow His Word.
  - D. God's Permitted Will
    - Sometimes, we refuse to follow God's plans. God's permitted will refers to things that He allows to happen in order to teach us a lesson; but, ultimately His intention is to bring us back home to heaven.
3. God's Blueprint/Personal Will for Everyone
  - A. For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jer. 29:11).
  - B. This blueprint (Jer. 29:11) is suited to our PERSONALITY. God has made our personality in such a way that as we grow at every phase of our lives, we touch people and other people touch us.
  - C. Our personality is built for complementation and growth.
  - D. It is suited to our talent. Our talent will give us a clue of what our future career will be or what that talent will play in our future roles.
  - E. It is suited to our needs. God's plan for us builds us up as He sustains our needs while enabling us to grow to be providers for our own and others' needs.
  - F. It is suited to our environment. We are each sown in the sea of humanity and in specific places and settings of life.
  - G. Example of a typical journey (born in a village, went to college in a city, moved to Manila for work, settled in suburbs with family).
  - H. Ask yourself: Did you have a foreknowledge that you will be where you are right now?
  - I. Would you in hindsight see the unseen hand that carried you up to this point?
4. God's plan for us is always perfect for every need and situation.
  - A. Even the unacceptable things that had happened to us in the past; things that we consider bad and humiliating; and, things that caused us so much pain will be revealed as part of a story of triumph when we encountered God.
  - B. Life is not judged by the good or bad things that happened to us or the failures and triumphs we went through.
  - C. Life is judged by the good things that came out from all our pains and struggles.
  - D. Jesus' life is our model on how we shall move in this world.
  - E. It is a life full of communion with the Father, always seeking God's will in everything.
  - F. We must be sensitive in every situation for God may be saying something to us through it.
  - G. Be mindful of the Lord in every decision that you make in your daily life. For example: to absent in school or not, to wear dress or pants.
  - H. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (Prov. 3:5-6).
5. The Basic Principle of Divine Guidance is "one step at a time."
  - A. While God has planned everything ahead, the journey is conceived as a series of small successive steps.
  - B. His Word is a lamp for our feet, a light on our paths (Ps. 119:105). We need His Word to be

lamp for our feet in order for us to tread the right path.

6. We have to make a personal preparation
  - A. Know our Shepherd, our Guide, and our Navigator.
    - Knowledge of God
    - Trust Him
    - Have Faith in Him
  - B. "Not my will."
    - Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you (Ps. 32:9).
    - Our stubborn and distorted will is our biggest obstacle.
    - God's guidance comes to those who have completely yielded themselves to the indwelling Holy Spirit.
    - The "will of the Father" is the "will of our Lord Jesus Christ."
7. Start the Journey
  - A. Use the Word of God to navigate your life (Prov. 16:3).
  - B. Biblical Principles to Help You Decide
    - Will it glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31)?
    - Will it cause others to stumble (Rom. 14:21)?
    - Will it harm my body (1 Cor. 6:19-20)?
    - Will my relationship with God be affected?
    - Will it build me up spiritually (1 Cor. 10:23)?
    - Will it become my distraction (1 Cor. 6:12)?

God's perfect plan for us, represented by the column of circles on the left, is revealed in His Word. If we follow His Word, His perfect plan will happen to us exactly as indicated on the left column of circles.

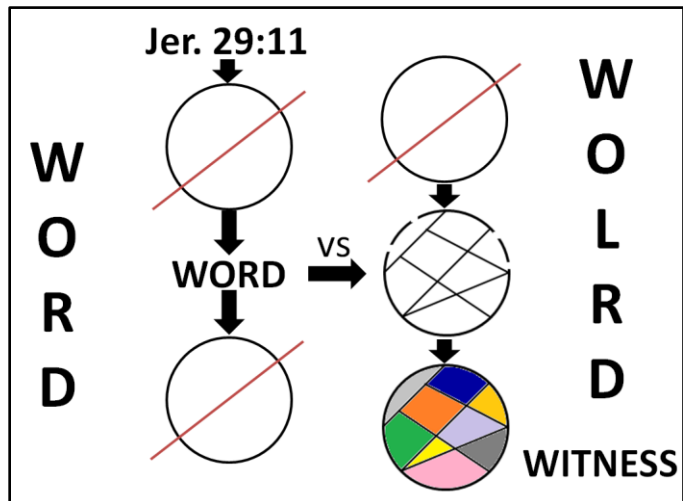
However, because we are in the world, which has a lot of distractions, what happened to us is, instead of the original circles on the left, we became broken circles pierced by burdens, hurts, etc., as shown on the right column of circles.

As shown in the diagram, if we want to make our lives whole again, we must apply the Word of God in our lives. As we live God's Word, we slowly make our lives, our circle, whole. Though our wounds are permanent as indicated in the diagram, the Lord will make a beautiful stained-glass out of our lives. We can use this to witness. In the end, nothing that we experienced goes to waste because we and others can draw inspiration from it.

We must praise God because He is always with us and watching over us. Let us not forget all the benefits that we received from Him. He forgave us; healed us from our sickness; and, redeemed us from our sins (Ps. 103:1-5).

Remember, in every step of our journey, there is always something that we can witness about for the Lord. Starting today, as we proceed to the next chapter of our lives, let us praise God through witnessing so that our life, as St. Paul said, can be offered as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1).

### God's Plan for Us Vs. What Happens to Us Because We are in the World



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