



The Word at Work

How To Have Plans Which Succeed

Reading the Word

Key Text: Proverbs 16:1-3

Understanding the Word

We all have plans and aspirations. The apostle Paul often talked of his future plans. But how do we know whether or not our plans are right? How do we know if they are in line with what God wants for us?

This is an area which can tangle Christians up. But it should be simple; it is something we should learn to handle early in our Christian life.

Read Proverbs 16:1-3

Note two aspects: v.1, *what* we want and v.2, *why* we want it

It is important that...

1. What: Our plans must be submitted to God

- If he is Lord then he is Lord of everything

God 'answers'

- What God says will always overrule what we think
- Not to be argued with
- *See Pr.16:9 and Pr.16:25*

2. Why: Our motives must be open to God

- Are our motives pure? We self-justify our motives and actions.
- *See Pr.30:12*

God 'weighs'

- The Lord 'weighs' the spirit/motives. *See 1 Sam.16:76*

3. Solution: Commit (=Roll) your work to the Lord.

- This has the idea of letting go; we often hold on to things too tightly.

- Roll your plans (thoughts, intentions, etc.) to him: if they're of him they'll roll back to you! Let him be the boss of it
- How foolish to cling on to something which is outside of God's will for your life because his will is... *See Rom.12:2*

HOW DOES THIS WORK IN PRACTICE?

Let your overall context be life in the Spirit and the word. Get on with life, make decisions *but* we must stay open to the Holy Spirit all the time.

Paul made plans but was open to change them if the Holy Spirit told him to. E.g. Acts 16:6-10.

The word itself tests our motives. *See Heb.4:12*

HOW ABOUT SPECIFIC DECISIONS?

- Pray 'commit your way'
- Listento the Holy Spirit
- Listento trusted people *Pr.12:15*
- Trust.....God 100% (not resignation). A confident expectation.
- Actwhatever steps are necessary

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. We often say that 'Jesus is Lord'. What does this mean when we make decisions about our lives?
2. At what point should we talk to others when we have decisions to make? *See Pr.1:5; 12:15; 19:20; Ecc.4:13*

To Do:

3. Make a habit of trusting God for all your plans and aspirations. *See Ps.37:4-5, Pr.3:5-6, Pr.16:3*
4. If you have significant decisions to make talk to those who give you spiritual oversight. Let them help and support you. *See Pr.1:5; 12:15; 19:20; Ecc.4:13*