

GOD'S SHALOM PLAN

Jer 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'

If you are like me you have heard this verse hundreds of times. This is a comforting verse. God has plans for our welfare. The Hebrew word for welfare is the word "shalom" which often is translated peace. However, this word can also be translated as wholeness, victory, safety, deliverance, healing, and prosperity. It is a word that contains all of God's goodness much like the word salvation does in the NT. It is good to know that God has plans for our wholeness, safety, deliverance, healing, and prosperity. However, I think sometimes that we can limit God and ourselves if we hear a verse over and over and never ask God to show us more of what that verse is saying to us. We can be hindered by what we already know about a verse because we might not be open to learn more about it. This has been true of me with this verse. Let me tell you how I looked at this verse for many years. I have subconsciously thought that this verse was saying that even though I was going through hard times right now that eventually God would get me through it and years down the road God would make my life turn out beautifully and give me a great future when I got older. God challenged my thinking on this lately by bringing to my attention that my future is not just years down the road. My future includes what I have to face today. It includes an hour from now. It includes ten minutes from now. My future is everything after right now! God has plans for my wholeness, victory, safety, deliverance, healing, and prosperity for what I will face in my future **today**. Satan has plans for me **TODAY** and so does God! His plans are greater than the devils! Let's look at a

verse that shows us that God has plans for shalom for us each and every moment of our lives, not just sometime in the distant future in our lives.

Psa 40:5 Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

This verse says that God's thoughts towards us cannot be reckoned or counted up. They cannot be numbered. First the word for “thoughts” here is the exact same Hebrew word found in Jeremiah 29:11 translated as “plans”. The best translation for this Hebrew word is plans. God has so many plans for our shalom- wholeness, victory, safety, deliverance, healing, and prosperity- **they cannot be numbered or counted.** If something cannot be counted it means it is infinity. God has infinite plans for shalom in my life and into eternity! I do not know how many years I will live on Earth but they are finite. The months, weeks, days, minutes, and seconds will be able to be counted. God's plans for me cannot be counted. This means that God has plans for every moment I live and these plans are for shalom! Since these plans are infinite they will go on throughout eternity! God has plans for you and me throughout eternity without end! Praise God! I want you to see that no matter what you are facing or what problem the enemy has thrown into your life God has a plan right now for your shalom! God's plans will give you a good future- no, not just years down the road, but later today, next week, and next month. His plans give you hope. **Hope is confident expectation.** You can have a confident expectation all the time because you know God has plans for your good that will bring shalom to you! There will not be a

time in your life that God does not have a plan for shalom for you. The only person who walked in every shalom plan God had for their life was Jesus. Jesus enjoyed God's shalom all the time. He experienced God's wholeness, victory, safety, deliverance, health, and prosperity all the time because He walked in the shalom plans of His Father.

That brings us to this point, just because God has plans for us does not mean that they will automatically be manifested for us. They will not drop on us like ripe cherries out of heaven automatically. To walk in these plans and experience God's shalom we must first know God's plan and secondly we must choose to walk in these plans. How do we come to know God's plans? The first way is by spending time in God's Word. God's Word reveals God's general plan. This is the plan of redemption. We must learn what God has provided for us in redemption. He has provided wholeness, victory, safety, deliverance, healing, and prosperity by His death on the cross. We must learn what belongs to us and claim them whenever the enemy throws his weapons and devices at us. We can walk in shalom all day long. Next, we need to know God's specific plans for shalom in our lives. This is by the revelation of the Holy Spirit. This is tapped into by receiving God's wisdom. God's wisdom is insight into His plans.

Jas 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Jas 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

If you lack wisdom (or understanding of God's will and plan in a given situation) we are to ask God and He will give us wisdom. He will reveal to us His plan for each problem we

face so we can experience shalom. Verse 6 says that we must ask in faith believing that when we ask that it is given to us. We need to confess after we have prayed for wisdom, "Thank you Lord for giving me wisdom. I have it! I know what to do when the time comes!" Your head might not know what to do right then, but you must believe you have received the wisdom when you prayed. That is what faith is about! You believe you received it before you can see it in the natural.

God has plans of shalom for you today. You do not have to wait to some day late in your life to have a good future and confident expectation of good. God wants you to proclaim that your future **THIS DAY** is good. You can have a confident expectation to see the goodness of God **TODAY**. God has shalom for you right now. Shalom to you!