

# Let's Review The Plan (Part 3)

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

So far in this series we have said that God's plan for us is to...

FOLLOW JESUS

TRUST GOD

If you missed those messages, I want to encourage you to go back and review what we discussed as they are a vital part of God's plan for us

Today, though, I want to back up and review a part of God's plan that is essential for us before we can truly live out a life that follows Jesus and trusts God.

Let's go to the Word because that's where we find God's plan for our lives

John 3:1-21 NIV

“Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. “You are Israel's teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not

believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God."

### PART 3 - YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

John 3:3, 7, 16 NIV

"Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

So here's what I want to do. I want to give you two statements about why we need to be born again and then illustrate those statements with two separate dreams that God gave me a few months ago, both in the same night. Then I want to share two steps we need to take in order for us to be born again.

### STATEMENT # 1 - We are Living, but DEAD and will face a SECOND DEATH

Ephesians 2:1-2

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Romans 5:12-20

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## DREAM # 1

- Katrina and I coming into a hospital room setting where her dad is laying on the floor and has passed away
- Meanwhile someone comes in to verify that he is deceased
- But the process of the verification takes place not in the hospital room but on a battlefield in Vietnam where a young soldier (has been shot and is being put into a body bag. The person doing the death verification looks at the young soldier and declares that he is dead. At the same time, he is looking at the older man in the hospital room and saying yes this is him (referring to the dead soldier) but also referring to the older man.
- The next thing I know, we are still in the hospital room and Katrina's dad is now sitting in a recliner and he begins talking to us. We are shocked and take it as an indication that he isn't really dead. About that time a nurse comes in and the picture changes back to her dad being on the floor, now like the soldier being prepared to be placed in a body bag.
- We protest to a nurse who walks in the room saying that he is alive because he was just talking to us. She brushes it off and says they all do that, it's just a temporary reflex and assures us that he really is dead.
- When I asked the Lord what it meant, He told me that it represents all of us when we are dead in our sins. We all died a long time ago (the immediate consequence of Adam's sin and our own choice to sin) And yet we can live an entire lifetime being dead in our sins. We may think we are alive but we are really dead. And the reality of that death will catch up with us as we die a second time (our physical death) and thus catch up with the spiritual death that has already occurred.
- Jude uses a term "Twice Dead"

### Jude 12

**12** These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.

### Revelation 2:11

**11** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

- The book of Revelation employs the term "Second Death" to refer to our physical death catching up to our spiritual death and thus the consequences of not being saved - our eternal death or separation from God.

## Statement # 2 - We must be transformed to be preserved from death and reunited with The Father

Colossians 2:13

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

Romans 5:12-20

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

13 To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. 14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! 16 Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

2 Corinthians 5:15, 17

15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[\[a\]](#) The old has gone, the new is here!

## 2 Corinthians 3:18

18 And we all, who with unveiled faces {because we have turned to the Lord} {reflect} the Lord's glory, {and} are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

### Dream # 2

- A family (brother, sister and mother) are on the run from men who are trying to kill them. The father has already been killed, but these men want to destroy the entire family.
- They run into what appears to be a cave, but as they continue to run forward the walls of the cave get narrower and narrower and start closing in on them. Soon the walls are pressing in on them but the walls are not hard but rather soft and squishy. As the walls continue to close in they are surrounded and now moved along by the walls themselves that completely envelope them as they are pushed along. Soon they are pushed through a small hole and deposited on the ground of what seems to be a beautiful place, green grass, trees, flowers, sunshine, clear blue skies and there is no sign of the hole through which they emerged. They are safe from any attackers, but they realize that they no longer look like themselves. They have been completely changed and yet they can still recognize each other.
- In the last few seconds of the dream, the father comes walking up to them and the family, with joy, is reunited

Both dreams represent the need for us to be born again. So, let's return to our key text and see clues Jesus left on how we can be born again.

### John 3:14-21

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

## Believe

- The prodigal son believed in the fathers compassion then confessed his sins and then showed a heart of repentance as he got up and went to his father

Luke 15:18-20

18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

## Confess

1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

## Repent

Acts 3:19

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

*THIS IS GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES...*