

## “Plans and Steps”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Our trustworthy God is so wonderful. He has made things so simple for us. He puts in each of us the desire to do certain things. It may be the desire to write songs, or build orphanages, or help someone else build their dream, for example.



Foot-  
notes:

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You may ask, at this point, “What is so simple about all of this?”

What is so simple, is that God sees the plans we make, watches us start to walk these plans out, and then he, in many cases, orchestrates things so that we have to change our plans if we are to reach our goals. You see:

In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. Proverb 16:9 (NIV)

Our All-Seeing God knows circumstances we do not. He knows our hearts and if we simply *trust him* and walk out the steps he puts in front of us, even if they seem to “mess up” our plans, they will lead us to the accomplishment of the ideas he gave us in ways far better than we could have ever conceived.

So, at first, some of us may wonder, can *I* do something like that? Especially if the idea is quite big, we (and/or others) may be concerned that we are doing this just for our own glory. We must remember:

20 If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, 21 would not God have discovered it, since he knows the secrets of the heart? Psalm 44:20-21 (NIV) (emphasis added)

God knows our hearts, and whether we desire do carry out these big plans for our glory, or his. So, if we believe God put these ideas in our hearts, and are doing this for his glory, let us proceed to make and implement the plans to accomplish the ideas God has given us.

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# Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

## “Every Opportunity”

(Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 5:15-33 (AMP)



Notes:

The Apostle Paul continues here in Ephesians Chapter 5 to cover some of the most important issues of life, especially for the believer. These are the issues of relating in the most intimate of relationships. Paul's purpose is to bring about an understanding of how God wants mankind to relate to him.

### Live Wisely

The Ephesians are admonished to carefully watch their walk in the lifetime they have been given. Yes, you see we all live in our own “lifetime.” The life plus time given to each of us.

### Make the Most of Time

Paul lets the Ephesians know to, “Make the very most of the time.” There is an interesting turn in the original meaning of the Greek words here which bring into play the idea of “buying up each opportunity” as we walk carefully out our lifetime. One of the hardest of things to do, for most people I have encountered, is to grasp hold of their time to the point that they happen to time, rather than time happening to them! Paul speaks of being specific and not thoughtless or foolish.

### Grasp The Lord's Will

Paul says it is important to grasp the Lord's will. Here he gets to the quick of the greatest battle for most believers. This battle is the battle between our own will and our Lord's will. When our minds are renewed we will place the Lord's will as paramount and find in him strength without the wasted energy of struggle.

### Speak In Melody

It is easy to see a peaceful and joyful person break out in song with a pleasant melody. When Paul tells the Ephesians to speak in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs offering thanksgiving, it is easy to see how peculiar such behavior would be to a fearful, angry, floundering person who does not know Jesus.

### Our Of Reverence

When people read verse 21 of this letter they often become distressed. Why? You see here is the core of interpersonal relationships — subjection to one another. This has often been misquoted and misunderstood.

### Husbands & Wives

The misunderstanding is often greatest in the marriage rela-

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

## Scripture:

### Ephesians 5:15-33 (AMP)

15Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), 16Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil. 17Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is. 18And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit. 19Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices [and instruments] and making melody with all your heart to the Lord, 20At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. 21Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). 22Wives, be subject (be submissive and adapt yourselves) to your own husbands as [a service] to the Lord. 23For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the church, Himself the Savior of [His] body. 24As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. 25Husbands, love

#### Notes:

your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, 27That He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things [that she might be holy and faultless]. 28Even so husbands should love their wives as [being in a sense] their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself. 29For no man ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and carefully protects and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, 30Because we are members (parts) of His body. 31For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. 32This mystery is very great, but I speak concerning [the relation of] Christ and the church. 33However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]. [See Note Page 3]

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tionship. All this subjection is by mutual agreement, as to the way things are done in the Kingdom of God.

**Marriage Is A Reflection**  
Marriage is to be a reflection of our relationship with our being the “Bride of Christ.” Christ does not dominate, but is willingly subjected to by willing subjects not coerced slaves! It is from the bottom up!

**Members Of One Body**  
We are all part of Christ’s body and he wants only good things for us! That is why Paul went to such great lengths to help his readers understand the relationship between a husband and wife. Christ, in fact, places the greater burden in the relationship on the husband as he, Christ, is the husband/groom of believers.

**Christ & Church**  
Christ demonstrated that the greatest love is to lay down one’s life for another. Christ is the protector and provider for his bride, and so ought the husband to be, in demonstrating his love and willingness to present man’s own bride well cared for without blemish, to prove his stewardship. Men are told to love wives. Wives like the church are told honor and reverence, their husband.

#### Notes:

### 1Peter 3:2 (AMP)

2When they observe the pure and modest way in which you conduct yourselves, together with your reverence [for your husband; you are to feel for him all that reverence includes: to respect, defer to, revere him--to honor, esteem, appreciate, prize, and, in the human sense, to adore him, that is, to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply love, and enjoy your husband].