

DELIGHTING IN GOD'S PLAN

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If you are like me, there are times when you wonder why the desires of your heart are not being fulfilled, especially, when they are wrapped in good intent. When this happens, it is important to take the focus off of self and place it on God's Word (this takes practice and persistence). Try practicing these five steps 2-3 times a week for six weeks and see what happens. Better yet, ask a friend or loved one to join you in delighting in God's plan.

1. **Delight in the Lord** and the desires of your heart will be fulfilled. (Psalm 37:4). Notice it does not say because you have the desires of your heart that you should delight in the Lord. Instead, when you delight in God (find joy and pleasure in His presence), it shifts your thinking so that the desires of your heart begin to align with His. Matthew wrote a similar thought in 6:33, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well." ***Each week (day) think of at least one thing about the Lord that delights you.***
2. **Acknowledge that God has a specific plan for your life** and these plans are to prosper you and not to harm you and give you hope for the future (Ephesians 2:10; Jeremiah 29:11). When God reveals His plans and you follow them, you will prosper and will have Kingdom success. This does not mean you are prospering by the world's standards, but by God's standards, with the future hope of eternity. ***Take a look back at your life and identify ways that God has prospered you and given you hope.***
3. **Be content** whether God chooses to open the door to your desire or to keep it closed (Philippians'4: 12-13; I Timothy 6:6-7). I have to admit contentment and patience are difficult for me. My friend, who is a kindred spirit, and I were talking about this the other day. There is something within us that keeps pushing us to do more. Though this can be a blessing, it soon turns into a curse if we do not temper it with contentment and God's leading. ***Identify an area of contentment on which you need to work? Ask the Holy Spirit to bring it to mind over the next six weeks and help you change your way of thinking.***
4. **View the world through heaven's eyes.** Each one of our brains carries a model of the world shaped by our genetics, family upbringing, culture, experiences, and learning. When you become a Christian, the model in your brain should start to change because you are a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17) and a citizen of the Kingdom of God (Ephesians 2:19). To be completely honest, there often is a conflict between what the world tells me I should desire and what God tells me. Seeing the world through heaven's eyes helps me to refocus on God's calling for my life. ***Each week (day) ask God to show you at least one new thing through His eyes. It is even more powerful when you keep a journal about what He shows you.***
5. **Look around and rejoice!** When you feel like you are walking through a desert or a wasteland—God is still with you and using you. His work is not based on your feelings but His power. God told the Israelites, "See, I am doing a **new thing!** Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland" (Isaiah 43:19—emphasis mine). Though God may not be working the way you want, stop and recognize the way(s) He is using you. And then rejoice and be glad in it. ***Identify at least one way a week (day) that God is using you and rejoice over it. Don't look for just the big things, ask God to open your eyes to the small ways He is using you, sometimes they are the most powerful.***

Email me and let me know how you are "delighting in God" and "the new thing" God is doing in you.