

## Chapter 9 Lesson and Principles

1. We all have plans for our lives. It may be a dream that has not been fulfilled yet. It may be goals you want to meet within a certain amount of time or by a certain age. There is nothing wrong with making plans for the future or fulfilling dreams. We just need to be careful on how we achieve our goals. The only way to be fully successful in life is doing life with God. Our plans and dreams are determined by God's purpose for our lives. There are steps to take to make sure we are doing what we need to do according to God's plan.
2. You must trust God with your life, no matter the end result. During prayer, if God says "no" to you, you must accept His response. It may be hard to accept, but you are better for it to obey God and allow Him to work in your life. Proverbs 3:5-6 says to "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." We may not understand God's plan for our lives, but we must trust Him to know what is best for us.
3. You must be willing to move forward in God's plan for our life. It may look different than what you expected or even the total opposite of your desires and dreams. These are the moments we trust God and believe He is good, no matter what He asks of us. Proverbs 16:3 instructs us to "commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."
4. Our plans and dreams may change the closer we are to Christ. When we follow after God, our lives are not our own anymore. God has full control over decisions and the end result. We can put our trust in God, because He knows everything about us (Read Psalm 139). The Psalm tells us God knows everything we do, what we say, and our future. Why not trust a God who loves us so much that He knows us from the inside out?!
5. One test of the character of a man is to see how he treats those who disagree with him. This one could have been clipped from yesterday's newspaper or TV News story. If his only desire is to destroy those who disagree, then he is much like the **bramble** in Jotham's parable– (Slide 27) .....plenty of good points, but no real substance for good.