

20-16-01-Seeking New Year Guidance

New Year, resolutions, guidance, direction, submission

Proverbs 16:9

Seeking *God's will* can short-circuit disappointing expectations.

### INTRODUCTION:

–After 2020, some may skip *new-year resolutions* for 2021. So many plans were canceled this year... just as God knew they would be—**Prov 16:9 (NKJV)**, “*A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.*” As citizens of God's kingdom, we need to submit our desires and plans to Him. **HOM.idea**. What He allows in this world *isn't* our main concern. Our *focus* is to be on *His will*, as this verse shows in various ways....

### **I. *God's will* remains our supreme concern, year after year.**

- A. Jesus expressed this when He taught us to pray “*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*” and also when He kept telling us “*Follow Me.*”
- B. Hard situations and uncertain conditions cannot alter *who we are*: we are *Kingdom-people* awaiting *our Lord's Return*.
- C. The TLB paraphrase of **Prov 16:9** tells us what we're to do in the meantime, “*We should make plans—counting on God to direct us.*”

### **II. *God's will* may cancel a personal plan for a greater one.**

- A. **Prov 16:9 (NLT)** says, “*We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.*” [**My original ministry plan** was to serve among college kids and young couples, but God had me start a church among seniors, and I stayed.]
- B. Circumstances (like *lock-downs* and *isolation*) don't have to limit spiritual service. [**A busy working girl** told how she had only time enough to take a newspaper to bed: “*I turn to the column of births and pray that the newborns find Jesus early in life and become great blessings to the world. Next, I check the wedding column and pray that the couples will always remain true to each other and build their homes on Christ. Then I go over the obituaries and pray that, in their sorrow, bereaved family members will turn to the Lord.*”]

### **III. *God's will* for us every year is to thrive in Christ.**

- A. As serious believers, this is our will, too— **Prov 16:9 (MSG)** says, “*We plan the way we want to live, but only GOD makes us able to live it.*” [**This paraphrase** captures what the early Jewish rabbis saw in this verse: a call to purification: *if we choose to live as God wants, He will guide our steps into the godliness we desire.*]

### CONCLUSION:

–Some may be as disappointed this time next year as they are right now at the end of 2020. That shouldn't be the case with us. **Seeking *God's will* can short-circuit disappointing expectations**. Worrying about what next year will bring is futile. Jesus told us to *deal with each day as it comes, one day at a time, all year long*. God knows exactly what 2021 holds for us, but we know exactly Who'll be holding us in 2021.