

GOD IS STRATEGIC!

Becky Combee

My heart has been captured in recent days by the words “strategy” and “strategic.” By the Spirit, our daughter, Suzanne, heard the words, “God is strategic.” When she shared that with me, my spirit clung to those words, but honestly, I was not sure what they meant.

My first step toward understanding this word from the Spirit was to look up the definition of the word “strategy” and carefully study its origin. According to the dictionary, a strategy is “a plan, method, or series of maneuvers or stratagems for obtaining a goal or result.” This word and its counterpart “strategic” have particular reference to military operations that are essential in the conduct of war. Their origin can be traced to two words from the Greek language of 1680 which mean a military commander or general and to lead. With these definitions in mind, our heart quickly opens to the deep spiritual significance of the words of the spirit, “God is strategic.”

Our great God is the commander-in-chief, the general, who gives leadership to His people. He is in charge of our lives and, by the Holy Spirit, He communicates the step-by-step plan that will enable us to fulfill His purpose. When we are fully surrendered to Him and His purpose, our lives take on new meaning.

The songwriter Fanny Crosby phrased it very well in the Christian classic “I Am Thine, O Lord.” Listen to her words, “Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord / By the pow’r of grace divine,” and,

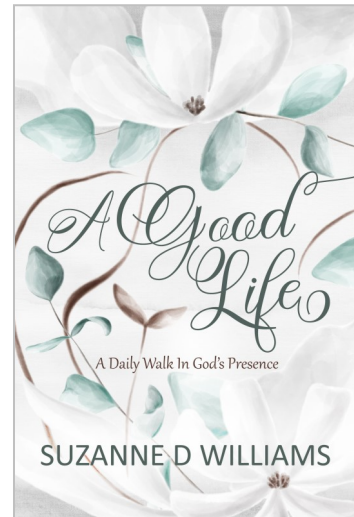
“When I kneel in pray’r and with Thee, my God / I commune as friend with friend.” Certainly, we agree with these words. It is through consecration and communion that we become aware of God’s purpose. Yet, it is not sufficient to understand the purpose. We must have a plan – God’s plan.

Throughout the Scripture, God has revealed His plan and purpose to His servants. There are numerous examples, but let’s look at a few. We are aware that the purpose of God for the people of Israel was to possess the land of Canaan. God did

New! By Suzanne D. Williams

“There is no better portrait of God than in His Word. Though many men held the brush over thousands of years, God directed each stroke, never altering in His purpose.”

Speaking from her personal experience, Suzanne shares an image of the Father and Friend, who lifted her from a dark place of fear and panic to one full of peace and love and heavenly light.





not leave them to decide HOW this could be done. He had a plan, a plan that would culminate in the fulfilment of this purpose. He directed Joshua to command the priests to take the Ark of the Covenant into the Jordan River and stand in the midst of the river until all the people were on the other side. That was the plan! What was God's purpose? It was safe passage through the river.

The next directive God gave to His people was to destroy the city of Jericho. It must be utterly destroyed, all the people and all the animals except for the family of Rahab. But every purpose must have a plan. What is God's plan? It is revealed in Joshua 6:3-5. They must walk around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, they must walk around the city seven times, blow the trumpet and shout. Then, the walls of the city will fall.

Over and over again in the Word of God, we see God's purpose and His plan. In the life of Naaman the leper, the purpose was to be healed of leprosy. What was the plan? How can this be accomplished? Naaman must dip seven times in the River Jordan.¹ In the life of Gideon, God's purpose was to destroy the Midianites under Gideon's leadership. Gideon prepared for battle with 32,000 men, but God said that was too many. What's the plan? Send everyone home who is afraid and eliminate some of the remaining according to how they drink water from the river. Now, Gideon is down to 300 men! It is God's plan!² God's purpose must be accomplished by following God's plan.

Here is another memorable moment in Old Testament history. A great multitude came against Judah in battle. Judah was outnumbered and could not win. What is God's plan? God said, "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle."³ So, what did they do? They sent the singers toward the enemy. What a plan! Don't fight! Sing! But don't forget our purpose. It is victory for Judah. Sing and the battle will be won.⁴

Now, let's look one more time from the Old Testament. You remember the prophet Elijah who instructed the widow to prepare food for him before she fixed the last meal for herself and her son. What was God's purpose? Wasn't it to save the life of Elijah, the widow, and her son? How can this be done? Feed Elijah first and you will not run

out of meal or oil. There it is—God's plan that accomplishes His purpose!

In the New Testament if we examine the ministry of Jesus, we note many different plans that fulfil God's purpose. Without giving many details, you will remember the various plans that brought healing to the sick. In one instance, Jesus anointed a blind man's eyes with clay. In two other cases, he touched the blind men's eyes. There were two different plans, but one purpose. HEALING!

Again, we see that Jesus healed several lepers. In Matthew 8, He put forth His hand and touched a leper. In Luke 17, He sent 10 lepers to see the priest. He did not touch them. HEALING was the purpose. The plans were unique and distinct.

The plan is God's strategy, and God always has a strategy. When the prophet Isaiah spoke of the coming of our Lord, He said the Spirit of the Lord would be on Him in wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord. The Passion Translation enlarges our understanding when it says, Jesus would come with extraordinary wisdom, perfect understanding, WISE STRATEGY, mighty power, revelation and the fear of Yahweh.⁵ The Hebrew word translated "counsel" in the King James Bible and "strategy" in The Passion Translation is defined in Strong's Concordance as advice, plan, and purpose, confirming for us that God has a purpose and plans to fulfil that purpose.

When Jesus came to earth, God's purpose was to redeem, rescue and deliver man from sin and every consequence of sin. The plan to accomplish this purpose was multifaceted. Jesus would be born of a virgin. He would preach, teach, and heal by the anointing of God. Then He would be arrested and crucified to rise again in three days. This was the "deliberate and well-thought-out plan of God."⁶ It would accomplish His purpose.

God has a purpose for your life. If His purpose has not been revealed to you or you do not understand how He wants to accomplish it, you should ask Him! Ask Him to reveal His purpose and His plan. Step-by-step He will open you understanding so that you can live every day in His plan, consecrating yourself to His will. There is no greater joy than to run your race for His purpose.

¹2Ki 5:10 ²Jdg 7:2-8 ³2Chr 20:17 ⁴2Chr 20:17-24 ⁵Is 11:2

⁶Act 2:23 MSG