

If God Permits

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Introduction

Planning is important, but let us acknowledge our dependence upon God (Ps. 37:23-26; Prov. 16:1, 9). Accordingly, let us consider various passages containing the expressions “if the Lord wills” or “if God permits.”

Association

God desires that we maintain close association with fellow Christians (Ps. 133:1-3; Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 10:23-25). However, such circumstances are dependent upon the will of God. Consider Paul’s relationship with the Ephesians (Acts 18:18-21; 19:1-10), the Romans (Rom. 1:8-15; 15:30-33; Acts 28:16, 30-31), and the Corinthians (1 Cor. 4:14-21; 16:5-14).

Growth

God desires that we grow in our faith and discipleship (Eph. 4:14-16; 1 Pet. 2:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:17-18). However, such circumstances are dependent upon the will of God (Heb. 6:1-8).

Commerce

God desires that we labor so as to provide for our own (Eph. 4:28; 1 Thess. 4:11; 2 Thess. 3:10-12). However, such circumstances are dependent upon the will of God (James 4:13-17).

Suffering

God desires that we face and overcome adversity (Acts 14:21-22; 1 Thess. 3:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:10-12). However, such circumstances are dependent upon the will of God (1 Pet. 3:13-18).

Conclusion

Boast not about tomorrow, for we do not know what the day may bring forth (Prov. 27:1; Luke 12:13-21). Time is fleeting (Psalm 39:5; 144:4); eternity is forever (Rev. 20:10-15; 22:1-5). Let us, therefore, make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts (Rom. 13:11-14). Are you prepared to meet God (Amos 4:6-13; 2 Cor. 6:1-2)?