

CENTERED

Surrender
Pastor Daniel Hahn
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MESSAGE NOTES

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you." — 2 Samuel 7:1 – 3

1. Having vision and initiating change is an essential part of effective leadership.

That night the Word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell My servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build Me a house to dwell in?' " — 2 Samuel 7:4 – 5

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. — Proverbs 16:9

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. — Proverbs 19:21

2. Not every "good plan" is God's plan.

My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel. But the Lord said to my father David, "You did well to have it in your heart to build a temple for My Name. Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, your own flesh and blood — he is the one who will build the temple for My Name." — 2 Chronicles 6:7 – 9

3. Being submitted to God involves getting re-directed even in ways that don't make immediate sense.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." — Isaiah 55:8 – 9

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor? — Romans 11:33 – 34

We often seek to make God manageable and measurable. We reduce God to a set of propositions, seal-tight theologies, or divine formulas. We fall into the trap of reductionism. In the words of A.W. Tozer, we end up with a God who can "never surprise us, never overwhelm us, never astonish us, never transcend us." — Philip Yancey, Rumors of Another World

Now then, tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over My people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. — 2 Samuel 7:8 – 9

The Lord declares to you that the Lord Himself will establish a house for you ... — 2 Samuel 7:11b

4. When God says "No" to plans we've made, He's saying "Yes" to something essential.

Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever. — 2 Samuel 7:16

5. Our lives are just a fragment of the much bigger story God is writing.

Certainty is the mark of the commonsense life — gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God, means that we are uncertain in all our ways, not knowing what tomorrow may bring. This uncertainty is generally expressed with a sigh of sadness but it should be an expression of breathless expectation. — Oswald Chambers

Surrendering your life means:

- Following God's lead without knowing where he's sending you;
- Waiting for God's timing without knowing when it will come;
- Trusting God's purpose without understanding the circumstances.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was one thing that resonated with you from our passage this weekend?
- What was the motive behind David's plan to build a temple?
- How did God feel about that plan (see 2 Chronicles 6:7 – 9)?
- Share a time that you had one plan in mind and God completely sent you another direction.
- Why do you think we humans have such a hard time releasing control, even to God?
- What experiences have you been through that really tested your trust?
- What sort of transitions or changes are you facing right now?
- How are you managing the anxiety produced by transition or change?
- What sort of things has God impressed on you in times of instability?
- Take some time to reflect on David's profound prayer in 2 Samuel 7:18 – 29. What lines really stand out to you in that prayer? In what ways is David a great example to us through the words of this prayer?
- How do you feel you could grow in your ability to be at peace even in times of re-direction?