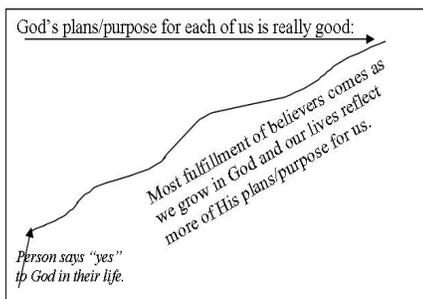


## Claim Your Place as a Child of the King

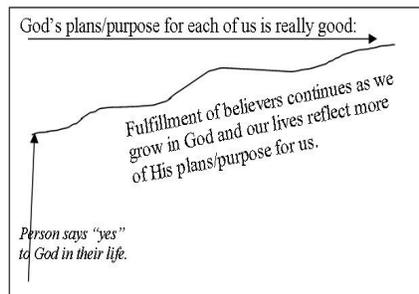
Recently I was challenged to re-think a view I have held, and which I have often illustrated to others who are new in their faith in God. Usually with my hands, I illustrate the Bible verse, Jeremiah 29:11 --- "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" --- to compare God's plans/purposes for our life (*the horizontal line with an arrow, in below diagram*) versus our actual life journey of faith. Here's the illustration:



I have been challenged to re-think the above understanding because it can make the life-journey of faith (*the line with curves*) seem too burdensome, and too works-oriented. Rather, I was encouraged to claim more joy, peace, and power initially as

### By Fred Wilgenburg

a believer (*the nearly-vertical line with an arrow, in below diagram*), or just for the fact that I am a believer, and then to enjoy the further growth on the life-journey of faith (*the line with curves*), as illustrated below:



In part I had been claiming the first illustration over the second because I am not a dramatically born-again believer (John 3:3). Since birth I have grown up to know and love God, and I have not experienced the dramatic feelings of being lost and then found, of being in utter darkness and then in the light. Which illustration above has been your experience, and your view?

Well, I agree with my friends who challenged my view, and I am now basking in the following truths; I hope this is for you, too.

By saying "yes" to God's grace, we are saints because of Jesus' righteousness; we are holy ones of God (Romans 1:7). By God's grace, through faith, we are righteous (Romans 3:22, 28). By God's grace, we are chosen, adopted daughters and sons of God. We call Him "Abba, Father." We are heirs of God, and co-heirs with Jesus (Rom. 8:14-17).

Those are truths for us when we have received God's love and forgiveness shared through the work of Jesus. In keeping balance, yes, I will claim my place as His son more and more up until the day I enter Heaven (Romans 8:23 & 1 Corinthians 5:1-5), but already now I am His son, and His saint, and one who calls Him "Dad." This view makes a difference in me as a person and a pastor. That joy, that peace, and that power can be seen in a person's eyes, and in their actions, and in their satisfaction in life. And, it most definitely impacts our ministry effectiveness as people interact with us, and think --- "I want what she/he has!"

More on Page 2



**Fall Benefit  
November 2  
5:30 pm  
Sioux Falls  
Christian High  
School  
(6120 S. Charger Ln.).**

The evening begins with supper served from 5:30 to 7 p.m. At the same time there will be a Silent Auction from 5:30-7 p.m. (First Silent Auction table closes at 6:45p.m.) A Live Auction begins at 7:15 p.m. **Check out our web page for the wonderful items on the live auction.** Come for the fun and invite your neighbors, friends, and family to come along.



**A shared ministry of Center of Hope and The Community Outreach, is taking applications from families that need help at Christmas time. We are also looking for donors who wish to be a blessing and aid a family. If you want to participate in this, please give us a call or check out our website. We are very thankful to KNWC for helping us promote this opportunity.**



Who is Center of Hope?

For 13 years, we have been sowing seeds of God's love and care in people who face difficult life issues. We do this as we:

- 1) distribute winter clothing (9000+ items/year) & bikes-for-work (600+ bikes/year & a full shop) at minimal prices,
- 2) as we offer use of computers and phone & visit/encourage people in our Care Center,
- 3) as we visit people in jail, in the hospital, and in homes,
- 4) as we host a weekly Basketball night for young men who lack direction for life,
- 5) as we have Restored 2 Life Church,
- 6) as we have weekly Bible studies,
- 7) as we do Faith Community nursing,
- 8) and as we offer Journey Camp for children.

*With the end of the year approaching, we would greatly appreciate your prayerful consideration of a financial gift to Center of Hope! Your generosity is a blessing to us and to many others.*

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Thank you for the gift in loving memory of Bambi Lee Harper

As always, we are happy to have you on our mailing list. Please let us know if you would like to be removed from our list or have your newsletter sent electronically.



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