**Let us start with a very old promise**….

Jeremiah 29:13-14

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD

**In recent news:** bombing in Russia- luck, pure physics, or destiny?

**Who is Gordon Magee?** Answer: nobody special and yet…God has counted my life to be precious, I am loved by Him, and even though life can be hard I must say I feel greatly favored by God and I hope you can say the same.

* Throughout the Bible God shares His desire: that we would know Him as Father, as our Savior, our Helper, and Friend and that we would seek His will for our lives.
* The Bible teaches that we each have a destiny (greater purpose) and that as we seek God and search for Him with all our hearts we will move beyond simple religion and religious practice and into the Life God truly has for us

**My Life:**

* Feelings of abandonment, the desire to belong lead to every wrong path, lost
* The questions: Who am I? Why am I here? What is this life all about?
* That welcoming outstretched hand. Jesus the Christ
* Cleaning up, following my new Savior as one who seeks God

Psalm 27:8 When You said, "Seek My face ," My heart said to You, "Your face , LORD, I will seek."

**Talking about Destiny:**

Balance: When we talk about destiny we see two things in the Bible, first: God has pre-determined many things about our lives, and second: God allows us to make choices about what we will do.

For some it would seem easier if God just made all the choices for our lives, we would just take life as it comes both good and bad and not have to feel responsible.

But God has set life up so that Faith is required, we do not get to fully understand how everything works ahead of time and we do have responsibility for our decisions and choices.

The questions of life: Who am I? Why am I here? What is this life all about?

The beginning of an answer- there are three things which God decided and chose for each and every one of us:

* First, God chose the family you were born into (is everyone born into a family where everything is perfect?) God chose this for us.
* Second, God chose where you would be born and the circumstances of your race (myself born in California in a White European family, many of you born near here in Kerala India with your family background) Because of politics, and the prejudice of man we experience life differently because of where and who we were born, God chose this for us.
* Third, God chose the time of history you would be placed into God chose this for us

Why Lord? Why was I born into this family? Why was I born a man or a woman? Why was I born into these circumstances and in this place? Why was I born in this time of history?

We question because God has put into us a human need to understand our destiny and purpose in this life. (Maybe we ask because of pain, maybe because of confusion, maybe because we hope life has meaning, maybe all three?)

**Why God? The answer from God’s Word the Bible-**

Acts 17:23-28 (Paul’s address in Athens after seeing an altar to ‘the unknown god’)

23 Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

Repeat 26/27, God did this so that we would seek Him. Remember the promise we started with?

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What other parts of the Bible show me that God actually plans for people to exist?

What can you read to me that proves that my life has meaning and is not just an accident?

If I know I was made on purpose, then I will surely seek God, I will look for Him with all my heart so that I may live the life He has for me.

Let’s start at the top, do you think God had a destiny for Jesus?

Luke 1:30-33 (Jesus)

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Matthew 1:20-21 (Jesus)

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Moving a little closer to ourselves, do you think God had a destiny for the famous persons in the Bible?

Jeremiah 1:4-5

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;

Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Luke 1:13-17 (John the Baptist)

13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

What about us? What about every other person? Does God really plan for us to be?

Psalm 139:13-16

13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

The answer is: Yes, God plans for each and every human life, even those who are cut off early, perhaps a baby who lives a few days, where is that Child? God knows.

Another important concept- Time is part of the Creation, God created time, God is not a prisoner of time like we seem to be. God uses time for His own purposes and He has planted you in a specific time, this time, today, so that you might seek and find Him here.

Galatians 4:4-5

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

As God planted His own Son Jesus, so God has also planned for and planted each one of us in time.

**God’s Plan for you and for me:**

We started by reading God’s promise in Jeremiah 29:13, starting in verse 11 we read:

Jeremiah 29:11-14

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope . 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the LORD,

**Seeking God**:

* Taking time to wait quietly in prayer (just because of who He is, a readiness to serve)
* Meditating on God’s Word (taking our questions to God and letting the question hang out there)
* Seeking the Lord’s face (Asking and listening in prayer for specific answers, to know what to do)

**God’s will:**

* The general will of God, preserved for us in the Bible, His Holy Scriptures (no equal exists)
  + Love your neighbor as yourself
* The specific will of God, comes by inspiration from God’s Holy Spirit
  + How do I love this neighbor?
  + God’s inspiration comes easier to those who regularly seek God in prayer

**Waiting on God:** 60 seconds

* Let practice waiting on God right now. Closed eyes open eyes your choice
* Clear your mind right now, God is here, you are here before Him now, He has called you to peace through Jesus Christ
* Right now you are simply waiting before God, not asking, wanting nothing, ready to receive, a servant ready for any instructions
* Let’s us wait on God together for one full minute
* Time:
  + Difficulties in clearing mind or quieting your thoughts?
  + Fears?
  + Impressions, inspirations, comfort from God?

**Meditation:** Ps 119:99 I have more understanding than all my teachers , for Your testimonies are my meditation.

* Meditation found in the Bible is not the same as Hindu or Buddhist meditation, we do not try and become part of God
* In Christian meditation we seek to understand what God is saying to us in His Word, by the circumstances of life, or to better understand what He has shown us in prayer.

Re-read Jeremiah29:11-14

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the LORD,

Jesus said-

Matthew 4:4 "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

**We started with a very old promise**….

Jeremiah 29:13-14

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD

God has a purpose for your life, God planned for you to be, God chose: your family and where and when you would be born. God desires for us to be His people and serve Him.

God is calling each of us to seek Him and to understand His will for our lives.

(Ministry, if today this message has touched you:

Perhaps you now realize that God planned for you and has purpose for your life.

Perhaps you need to renew your Christian zeal in seeking and following Jesus.

Perhaps you understand today that you are far away from God, that you need God in your life,

As we have read, God has chosen to send us His Son Jesus Christ,

Jesus’ purpose, God’s plan for Jesus, is to be the Savior and Lord of mankind, with no one higher or greater.

Only Jesus can take away your sins and make you free to find your purpose through seeking God.

(If you would like someone to talk and pray with you about this message, feel free to come forward after closing prayer