



# FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

*WELCOME to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## God's Plan

Most Christians truly desire to understand God's plan for their lives. Yet there are many questions: how do I discover God's plan? How can I be sure? Fortunately, the Bible provides many important principles regarding the will of God. God is not trying to hide His will for our lives; He wants His children to know His will and follow it.

**First**, the Bible is filled with clear statements regarding God's plan that apply to all believers. For example, [1 Thess 5:16-18](#) teaches, *"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* These three activities—being joyful, praying, and giving thanks—are God's will for all believers, regardless of other circumstances. We can understand God's will through His Word.

**Second**, we can better understand God's plan for our lives by closely following Him. [Rom 12:1-2](#) promises, *"I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."* When we dedicate our lives to God and turn away from the principles of this world, we prepare our hearts to hear from God. [1 Thess 4:3-7](#) confirms the necessity of being a "living sacrifice" and gives more detail about God's plan regarding sexual purity and holy living.

**Third**, we can discover God's plan through prayer. [Col 4:12](#) notes that a believer named Epaphras was *"always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured."* We can grow in our understanding of God's will through prayer. We can also pray for God to reveal His plan to others.

**Fourth**, God sometimes reveals or confirms His plans for us through other means, including personal circumstances, relationships, or even dreams. However, these areas are often more subjective, and we must carefully evaluate such signs by what God has clearly said in Scripture.

As we pray, study Scripture, and seek to live holily before the Lord, He will reveal His plan for us in His perfect time and in a way we can understand.

## Missionary Update Afghanistan

Thanks again for your faithful prayer support!

- 1.) Praise, Omid is doing better but prayer is needed for doctors to discover what exactly wrong with the 8 year old whose lungs for some reason are not producing oxygen.
- 2.) Please pray for Qurbon's mother who has cancer. The family has sent her to India to seek treatment.
- 3.) We have 3 men now including Qurbon. Sayad Ali, who I have been praying for since he left us about 6 months ago has come a few times to the center. If he is to return he must show up 5 days in a row. Some of my staff are worried he might not be a good influence but i believe the Lord really wants to do a deep work in his life. So pray that if he really means business that he shows up for the required 5 times and that he comes broken and humble. Otherwise pray he does not come if he will cause disruptions.
- 4.) For Jaweed, a young man who has a scholarship to Ohio University awaiting clearance from the US government. Pray he makes a decision for Jesus.
- 5.) I am in Mongolia. I am realizing I am really tired, so please pray that I get some good rest.
- 6.) When I returned to Mongolia, a young man, Beku who used to live with me and at one time had made a decision for Jesus asked to get with me. As we met for coffee he told me he was living with his girlfriend and that his Mother was not happy because she was not Kazak. Then he told me that she has a 4 year old child from a previous relationship. We talked about that for a little bit then he shared the bomb shell, she is in line to become a Shaman from her family. I asked him if he understood the roots of Shamanism. He told me, "But I went and another person starting speaking through the Shaman and told me all about my life!" I told him I believed it was from the "dark side" and that it is all about fear and manipulation. I then contacted some friends and they gave me the number of a former Shaman who became and a Christian and shares with those caught up in this. So I contacted Beku and he said no they did not want to meet him as they have found a Shaman to teach and train his girlfriend. Please pray for this. They have no idea the road they are going down!

Blessings, John

<b>First Christian Assembly,</b>	1900 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
<b>First Christian So Jersey,</b>	1960 Delsea Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080	
<b>Philadelphia Access Center,</b>	1832 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-1985

*The Philadelphia Access Center* is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at [www.philaccess.org](http://www.philaccess.org) or [www.facebook.com/philaccess](http://www.facebook.com/philaccess).

**WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS**

	Meets at FCA	Meets at PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study – Phila -location</i> 10:00 AM <i>South Jersey Worship Service</i> 11:00 AM <i>Phila Location Worship Service &amp; Children’s Sunday School</i>	
Monday		7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>
Tuesday	6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Discipleship class (Fellowship hall)</i>	
Wednesday		1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i>
Thursday		6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>
Friday		7:00 PM <i>Free Indeed</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men’s Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Free Indeed*; Is a Spirit led Men’s Fellowship that emphasizes godly counsel, leading to spiritual growth, healing and deliverance.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one’s addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Ministries at First Christian (Phila.& NJ) and the Philadelphia Access Center
- Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith
- Our supported missionaries
- For our Pastor and his family
- Paula Grazulis

**When God brings all things to light, you will discover just how significant you've been in God's plan. – A. W. Tozer**