

Lost in the Detail

7 Day Bible Devotion Plan by Ps AJ Chuson of Zeal Youth and Young Adults.



“Be intentional in the detail...”

On average we live to be about 75 to 80 years of age. Whether you're new to Christianity or have been keeping the faith for most of your lives, one can't help but wonder sometimes: "What is God doing about my future? Where is God taking me in the future? What do I need to do for God right now? How do I keep going without any signs from God? When am I going to be where God told me I'd be?", and it's these very questions that shake one's faith. You feel confused, hesitant to step out of your comfort zones, your language changes from full of faith to full of fake- to the point where the very words you share about your promise from God is fueled by ***you convincing yourself*** instead of being filled with a God given conviction. You get disoriented, out of place and lost. You don't know where to go or what to do, how to do things and when to do things. You get lost in the detail.

In this Bible Plan we step into breaking down the very structure of trusting God, not to shatter it but so we can build it how God intended it to be. This bible Plan will shake your foundations, amplify your passion and stir your faith. It's time to stop getting lost in the detail, but to be intentional in the detail.

Day 1.

“Foundations”

I'd assume the reason you wanted to read this plan is because you know God has something for you- or you think you do, or perhaps not at all! But with any of the previously mentioned you want some direction in your life. However, it's vital for you to know where you are currently in your foundations and what it's built from before we add anything on top, or remove things from below.

Identifying your foundations determines what can be built on it and what can't be built on it, and for some this can be a **very difficult** pill to swallow. You may have been blessed with a God given vision, but if you don't have the right foundation, God can never help build you up there. For those of you that haven't received a vision from God, then perhaps what's missing isn't the lack of foundation, but the lack of ground for God to even build a foundation. Yes, God has a plan for you, however if you don't allow Him any space to move or influence your life, you'll miss the very thing He's doing right beneath you. So the question should no longer be: “Why isn't God moving in my life?”, but rather “Why am I not aware that God is always moving in my life?”.

In saying all this, there is also a third category of people that struggle with purpose because they feel they are not worth God's time. Let me tell you, there's nothing that you've done, currently doing or going to do that will disqualify you from experiencing all that God has for you. **Matthew 10:1, NIV**, says “Then Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority over unclean spirits, so that they could drive them out and heal every disease and every illness.”. This includes Judas Iscariot. That's right, God has entrusted a vision, a calling, a purpose onto Judas despite knowing that this very man will betray him.

God will never hold back on you, and if you feel like you're lacking these things then it means that it's not God withdrawing His promises, it's you withdrawing your hands and heart to receive what He's got for you and for those around you for you to see and share.

Let's be transparent and real here. Let's be bold enough and dare to ask these key questions. Doing so will affect your very foundation of trusting in Him. In regards to what's happening or going to happen in your life, ask yourself: “Am I currently allowing Him space and access to my foundation?” Or for some of you that haven't experienced Him influence your life, ask yourself: “Would I be willing enough to give Him space and access to create these life changing foundations?”. These are fundamental questions for a transformed, Holy, kingdom based foundation. Because without a foundation intended for His Kingdom, there can't be a structure intended for His kingdom.

Questions:

What vision do you believe God has placed into you?

How long have you had that vision for?

Would you allow God to do things in your life that don't make logical sense?

Passages:

Jeremiah 29:11 , Romans 8:28 , Proverbs 16:9 , 1 Corinthians 3

Day 2.

“Our God is an investor”

Many of us have high hopes and dreams of what God is going to do for our God given vision, at times we even ask for giant signs like “God, if this is for me, part these waters like you did for Moses”. Or at times it may be an interesting request like “God, if this is for me, give me the name of this person or thing 7 times this week so I know it’s from you.”

As trusting as this may seem, this can quickly become a toxic approach to pursuing your God given vision, promise or direction. The reason for this is because you’re no longer trusting God in the process, but you’re trying to control the situation that you are in by limiting God to what you will allow as “God-like”. You can try and refute this, but the honest truth is that when you start praying like this and you think it will narrow down the direction for you, but in reality you’re only narrowing down what you receive. Which is completely counter intuitive.

As mentioned in Day 1 of this Bible Plan, you are worth every vision that God places into your heart. Not because of what you’ve done or what you’re to do, but you’re worth it because you are who God created you to be. A vision unto you is a God given investment. It isn’t a suggestion, it isn’t an option, it isn’t a choice to make, it’s an investment that God is placing into you, where He is for believing yield and return of multiplication and fruitfulness.

God had placed that vision with an expectation of increase, not only for His kingdom but also your personal life. Knowing this now introduces a new word into the mix- **expectation**. What are you expecting from your vision? Or perhaps the better question is, what are you expecting in yourself for your vision? At times we may pray relentlessly to the point of begging for God to bless us right here right now, but can we handle the blessing?

God is an incredible investor, and so He wouldn’t invest into something that will fail. This is important to remember- If God has placed a vision into your heart He did not place it in there for it to be a failure. It may take some time, it may come with challenges, it may cost a lot more than expected, it may not make any logical sense, all this and possibly more- one thing is for sure, God will never place a promise there to be a failure.

However, this does not give allowance for you to not do a thing, you need to be intentional, make steps forward. But then you’d ask “Hey, that’s a life of works and not faith”- Faith without works is dead, if you want to exemplify faith it is done through acts of faith and trust in the Lord. You **must illustrate** this trust and **not just say it**.

Questions and Tasks:

What are your expectations for that vision and what are God’s expectations for that vision?

Do you believe you are worthy of His investment? Why?

List 5 different ways you can intentionally illustrate trust in God

Passages:

Hebrews 11:1 , Philippians 1:20 , James 2:17 , John 15:16

Day 3.

“Brooding versus Moving”

Self reflection and meditation is a great set of tools to help you surface problems and issues lurking in your heart, and at times it can help solidify your faith from what you've just experienced, witnessed or heard. However, there is the question we must ask ourselves is where is the line drawn for you? What are your boundaries in taking thoughts captive and guarding your heart? Reflection and meditation are great, but at what point in your life do you start to brood over the past occurrence? When left unchecked, the thing that was meant to be painful for 2 hours has now lasted 2 years. What are you letting brood in your life?

There is a professional sports coach in America that has this rule called the 24 hour rule. She had developed this rule where regardless of win or loss, the team would move on and forget about the game that had just passed. Definitely acknowledge that it happened, but it's vital to understand that that day is done and over. For us Christians this means that when we face troubles, defeats, tribulations, disruption in our relationships and loss, we need to be intentional in that moment. Grieve, pour out, scream, yell, cry, all these and other strategies to intentionally use these today to remove the clutter of disappointment in your heart.

Once you remove these things you will soon start to notice that if you've been steadfast with God through it all, you will see momentum. You will feel it and you will embody what it means to have momentum. Nothing slows you down anymore- you're free!

This is the important lesson for today. Be intentional in your season, because the 24 hour rule also applies to winning. Victory is coming your way, not from you but from God. However God is not satisfied with only one victory in your life and He is telling you today that victory is intended for you, and when that day comes and goes, another day of victory awaits.

A simple but powerful thing you must remember is that you can't get to your destination without direction and intention, but each of these are only as good as words without movement. You must move and through that naturally gain momentum. Now, this is where a lot of people make mistakes, this is where they try to slow things down because it's uncomfortable. But growth cannot occur in the comfortable. Take it like how you've grown out of your shirt when you were the age of 5, try that shirt on again and you'll be struggling to put it back on- that's because you've outgrown it and if you were to wear it again it would be uncomfortable. Don't fall under the illusion that God only works in the comfortable.

These are what I call spiritual growing pains, as God will take you through experiences that are uncomfortable but after stepping through it you would experience exponential growth. The issue a lot of Christians have is that they're too comfortable to step into what God has for them- Just like the Israelites and Egypt. God has amazing things for you in store- stop holding yourself back.

Questions and Tasks:

What are some things you are currently brooding over? Why?
Do you believe you are created to be victorious?

Passages:

1 John 5:4 , John 16:33 , 1 Corinthians 15:57

Day 4.

“Inhale, Exhale”

Breathing, it's something that most of you would do at a subconscious level. We've heard before that what we inhale is Oxygen, and what we exhale is Carbon Dioxide, and this process is what helps us fuel and exhaust the things that our body needs to live. Similarly there are things that we may subconsciously pick up and attain, seeming like it's what we need but in reality it's causing more harm than good.

Addictions in particular give the urge and the notion that without it you are worse off. One tell tale way to know you're addicted is testing if those things are removed from you for 24 hours would you survive? Or would it be the most painful time? For some of you it may not be at that level but the challenge may come in urges. This is also an addiction. What are you allowing into your life that is becoming a detriment to your growth in faith? Yes, even doing work and studies can become an addiction.

On a similar note, what are you releasing from your life onto others? Is it the fruits of the Spirit or is it something else? For some of you what you let out is developed from a pain or struggle from the past. If you can't help but find yourself or being told that you interrupt, it's not that you're a bad person, it simply highlights that you've grown up in an environment where you have to compete for your voice to be heard. Similarly if you find yourself always raising your voice needlessly above others it's from experiencing a hurt that people have always ignored what you've said- so now you're speaking louder than everyone around you so you can gain that attention you've longed for. Or perhaps you're the opposite, you may find yourself apologising a lot to the point where people don't understand why you continue to apologise- this is likely because you've been told off in a setting that made you uncomfortable, so now you apologise preemptively as to not be in any trouble.

When you see these things in yourselves or other people you mustn't feel ashamed or cast shame onto them because there is a scar or wound there that is affecting how they speak, not only to others but also to themselves. There is so much power and authority in your speech, the bible even goes on to say that there is the power of life and death in your tongue!

So what are you speaking over your situation right now? Is it life? Or is it death? Another question to consider is how much of your speech is dictated by past hurts or past victories?

You have the decision to choose where the voice is coming from and what you're speaking into your life. Today it's time to bring these things into the light and expose the lies, insecurities and false accusations out into the open. It's not your fault and whatever it is you've gone through or going through doesn't disqualify you from inhaling God's goodness.

Practical Tasks:

Make a list titled “Qualities I have”

Make a list titled “Qualities I'd like to have”

Cross out the title “Qualities I'd like to have” and rename it as “Qualities God plans for me to have”

Passages:

Psalm 34:4-5 , Romans 8:1 , Romans 6

Day 5.

“Adjusting your Posture”

Posture is everything. Your posture is vital to what you are able to do, and what you are not able to do. A posture is formed from habit and lifestyle, you will find that if your posture is bad you will be unable to do the things you were once able to do before. This is seen with how your posture is in reality. However, when you apply this to your spiritual posture, things change dramatically. With the same outcomes applied. If you have bad spiritual posture you will reap a meager harvest in things that you do. So it is absolutely crucial that you get your posture adjusted so you can experience completely what God has in store for you today.

When it comes to this adjustment we want it fast, we want it done and we want it completed without any issues. However when it's not fast, it's not done, and there are many issues and distractions along the way, you feel like God has abandoned you and has given up on you.

But in reality, your posture is being adjusted to best receive what He has for you. Because if your posture is bad, you wouldn't be able to carry the load- whether it be a blessing for yourself or for others. He is adjusting your very trajectory, millimeter by millimeter. It may not be quick, but it's the most intentional and precise. God is a God of precision and excellence, He will not rush the process for your convenience, He will take you through the process so you are effective.

In this world a lot of people want things fast. People want to receive their promises fast, people want to receive their promotion fast, people want to understand everything fast. There are a lot of things we want in a rush because we feel that we will be left behind in doing things. I know for myself that I've had many a night praying and praying for God to promote me, but God asked me the question- Who are you rushing me for?. And that got me to realise that I was doing things out of my own convenience- I was covering my selfish desires with a seemingly “Christian-like” request. We need to be real with ourselves, what is the rush?

If we truly believe that God is omnipresent and omnipotent, then we need to believe in our hearts that God's timing is the best timing for you and for those around you- no excuses or reasons to believe otherwise. Because before you can be intentional, influential and impactful in your promise or the very thing you desire, God is aligning your trajectory to there through victory in Jesus' name. One millimeter. At . A. Time.

Questions and Practical Tasks:

Are you feeding your spirit with the Word?
Are there past hurts and pains in your life? - List them
Have these been overcome? How? If not why?
Write a testimony of God's goodness in your life

Passages:

Galatians 5:16 , 1 Peter 5:5 , Psalm 1:1 , 2 John 1 , Philippians 4:1

Day 6.

“Adjusting your Atmosphere”

God doesn't want to just bless you for a moment, but He also wants to bless everything around you. God thinks about the bigger picture and plans accordingly. At times you may feel like you have no clue at all what God is doing right now and that's perfectly fine, you don't have to know every detail.

However, If you want to see God shifting your life in the fine details it would be a good practice to write down a testimony for every good thing you can remember, that God has done for you in your life, and when you finish that list, write one for each day- be intentional in your season. Not only will you come to notice that God has been moving, but you will also develop and create an atmosphere where your world is no longer about what you receive but you may begin to focus on where those blessings are coming from. This is the earth shattering revelation that we must understand and believe, reflecting on Jesus' prayer “On Earth as it is in Heaven” we come to realise that God has full intention for His Kingdom, His realm, His atmosphere to not only be accessible but to be mirrored on Earth.

As many scientists know, a planet's atmosphere is dependent not on its surroundings, but rather on the state of the planet- its very core. Likewise, you are created with an atmosphere created by God, for God. However that atmosphere is maintained, grown or lessened by what you do with yourself. This is the freewill that God has given you- what will you do with your atmosphere?

Today, right this very moment, you can shift your atmosphere from a place of doubt and fear to a place of confidence and hope. The book of Galatians mentions all the fruits of the Spirit- these are the very things our atmosphere should contain, is this what your atmosphere contains?

We need to ask ourselves the hard questions, the scary questions. Because the shifting of atmosphere doesn't start from the outside, it starts from within, the very core, the deepest part of you.

Practical Tasks and Passages:

Psalm 139:23:24 says:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Pray this prayer to God today in full transparency, and allow Him to unveil and uproot things that do not belong in your core.

Passages:

Galatians 5:22-23 , Proverbs 4:23 , Proverbs 27:19 , Psalm 51:10 , Ezekiel 36:26

Day 7.

“Fruitful in all seasons”

You want to be fruitful, useful and intentional. You want to live a God filled life where you are able to serve Him in a way that gives Him the best honour and worship. Great, but what if the method of doing these things don't match what you're able to do right now? For some of you, you want to do something big, something grand- for some others it's something behind the scenes, something that doesn't cause too much attention. Either of these come from pure intentions but now you find yourself in a season that feels very **uncomfortable**- this is no mistake or error, this is how it is meant to be.

Being fruitful requires depth. You're a seed in this earth. In saying that, it's important to understand the difference between being buried, and being planted. Buried is to just put something underground with no intention but to be hidden. Whereas planted is to be placed underground at a depth with full intention. Prioritising placement for growth and production of fruit in the most optimum position.

So a couple of questions to consider now: “What do you produce?” and “What do you want to produce?”. Because the size and the health of the things you produce is dependent on the nutrients- what you feed yourself and the atmosphere. Yesterday you learnt about ‘atmosphere’ and I pray you **continue to develop** that, however what you now need to learn is how to grow from the place you are planted.

The key to attaining as much nutrients as you can where you're planted is **by going deeper**. You must continue to go deeper into the soil to attain more nutrients. You can't get stuck at a shallow depth like that of a bonsai tree. If you have time, compare a bonsai tree's breed to a version of itself when it's not a bonsai, and you will see the potential that tree had of growing into something far larger and more fruitful. Likewise, if you're planted at a shallow level, you're a fraction of the size you're intended to be; deprived of the space and nutrients to grow.

Your evidence of your health in where you're planted is in your fruits. Fruitfulness is not a mood or scheduled thing in our lives, it's a conviction in our hearts. God will not make a demand where he did not make a deposit- He will not set you up for failure. You are planted and intended to be fruitful in all seasons. Your calling isn't found in the future, it's found today and what's around you. For some of you you're called to be a Mother, a Father. For others you're called to be a Pastor, a Leader, a Husband, a Wife, a Brother, a Sister. Be intentional with what you're called to be right now. Because the people around you need your **blessing today- not tomorrow**.

At the end of the day how sure are you that God will take that path to get to where you're called to be? Rather than getting lost in the detail, God wants you to be fruitful in every season. Whether you understand things or not, God is wanting to draw out of you a level of trust that is not placed in your own understanding but onto His. I assure you with a reminder that God is all knowing, all powerful and is in the past, present and future, and so if it's challenge for you to trust in Him knowing all these things- perhaps what the difficulty is in your life isn't trusting in Him, but you may need to let go of the desire to control every situation in your life, or to stop believing you can manage your life better than God. Don't forget, **He is for you and not against you**.

Questions and Passages:

Are you Buried or Planted?

How can you be fruitful in your season?

What are some things that you can implement today?

Passages:

Psalms 1:3 , Proverbs 3:9 , Psalms 69:13 , Philippians 4:4 , Philippians 4:14 , Proverbs 3:5-6