

GOD PLANNED YOU

EPHESIANS 1:5

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: We continue to look at God's plans for you before He created the world.

IN LOVE. God loved you even before you were created. The Greek word for His love for you is agape. It means "to esteem, a direction of the will, to find one's joy in someone....not to love means to neglect, disregard, condemn." Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament. "Biblical *agape* love is not an emotion but a disposition of the heart to seek the welfare and meet the needs of others." John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians, p.14. God loved you before He planned you. (**Ephesians 1:4-5, fn 1:5, Ephesians 1:11, fn 1:11, Romans 8:28-30, fn 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:4, fn 1:4, I John 4:7-12, fn 4:7-21**) *When and how do you realize that God loves you?*

FOR ADOPTION before He created the world. Just as you resemble your earthly parents, to be adopted by God is to be God-made, a new creation in the image of your heavenly father. This is true of believers, and it becomes a reality in our lives as we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us to become more and more like Jesus. (**Ephesians 1:5, Romans 8:14-17, fn 8:14-17, Galatians 4:4-7, fn 4:5-7, John 1:12-13, fn 1:12-13, II Corinthians 5:17, fn 5:17, I John 3:1-3, fn 3:2-3**) *How are you like Jesus?*

FOR HIS PLEASURE. God chose you and predestined you to bring Him satisfaction and delight and to show His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. It is through your faith in Jesus that God accomplishes His pleasure, His will. (**Ephesians 1:5, Ephesians 2:8-10 fn 2:10, Romans 3:28, fn 3:28, Hebrews 11:6, fn 11:6[1st], Galatians 5:6, fn 5:6, I Thessalonians 1:3, fn 1:3**) *How is faith alone vital for your personal relationship with Jesus?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?