

“We can make our own plans, but the Lord gives the right answer. People may be pure in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their motives. Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.  
Proverbs 16:1-3 NLT

## lectio // Proverbs 16:1-3

These wonderful and wild verses about the will of God (plans) got me through so many early years of my faith. I believed them, committed them to memory and quoted them to myself, God and whoever needed an extra boost of faith when it came to everything FUTURE. I've got to say, I never treated these “plan” verses as formulaic, but instead as promises. Certainly, when I was young, I felt like a blind man hiking on a precarious trail at high altitude. I was groping forward, making decisions in a vacuum, with little confidence. I was learning to walk by faith and as you know, it isn't all skips and trips to the ice cream truck! I was constantly making plans, checking - no TRIPLE checking my motives, and leaning on what little sense of peace that was acclimating to the will of God. I felt brave, adventurous and terrified with the big decisions of life - dating, love, marriage, schooling, money, career and ministry. Yeah, ministry was in the mix from the beginning. I knew God had called me to something, somewhere, to be someone he could trust - I just had NO idea what, when, where or HOW he was going to do it. If I had been more happy-go-lucky, self aware and confident, I would have enjoyed the mystery of the journey. The fact that I was none of those things made it interesting. My father-in-law just recently gave me a cool little illustration to ponder while seeking the will of God. The three lighthouses. Apparently somewhere in the Greek islands there is a port that is treacherous. Thankfully there are three lighthouses to help guide the safety. If you see one or two lighthouses lined up with the bow of your ship, then you will surely wreck on the rocks. However, if all three lighthouses line up on the bow and you stay that course, you'll sail with ease into the port. The three lighthouses are GPS. God's Word, Providence and Spirit led. Using all three to guide your life decisions are an excellent training tool to making your plans, parsing out your motives and seeing God give you success. Have there been “misses” in my life? Absolutely. Again, relationship tips aren't formulas, they are nuanced, subtle, mysterious, even romantic, explorations of love.

Dad,

Now that I've passed through some dark, hard seasons, I can say, “oh, that was interesting!” Now I have to wrestle with the past by asking the hard question, “Would I choose to go through them again?” I immediately scream NOOOOOO. However, some really beautiful things came out of it, some amazing, unforeseen blessings came out of it and my crushed heart and soul is far more tender to those who are traversing the valley of death.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root