

“Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.” Proverbs 16:3 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 16:1-3, 9

I promise you, this verse, along with similar “We can make our own plans, but the Lord gives the right answer.” And, “We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps,” 16:1, 9, have guided my life for a very long time. These verses gave me the NEVER QUIT, KEEP MOVING FORWARD determinism I needed to build the framework of faith for my life! They were daily prayers, constant focus, reminders that I took as pure promises straight from God. These verses got me all through High School, College, young married, young parenting, ministry/career choices all the way through to my forties. Then, in my fifties I added a verse that Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 16:9, “There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.” I’ve been praying and preaching these bundled nuggets ever since. Even in my dumbest, naive decision at fifty-five to believe join a huckster/hustler in a succession plan (which turned out to be a disaster) God used it, sustained us and positioned us to be where we are now (which was a 3 1/2 year journey). We make plans, God positions our steps. I wasn’t actively trying to further a “career” nor trying to blow one up - yet God was faithful. I pray for friends that get off-track, or booted out. My faith in the church was a train-wreck, but I never lost my faith in Jesus. In fact, my faith deepened during that time.

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Dad,
 What a journey! From lots of prayer, tears and fear in my youth until today, on the brink of turning 60 in a couple of months. Wow. Bravo 🙌! You have never failed to care, comfort and prod me forward. I am so grateful, so amazed. Your word, your promises are true and trustworthy. As I round this next corner of a new decade and head into the winds of change as well as a body that wakes up with new aches, let me remain faithful to my calling. Let me finish strong.

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