This verse highlights a profound biblical truth: human beings, in their finite understanding, often form numerous plans, dreams, and ambitions. These plans may appear good on the surface, but they are often shaped by personal desires, emotional wounds, pride, or selfish ambition.

Scripture acknowledges the complexity of the human heart.

> *Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV) tells us:*
> “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”

This means our intentions, no matter how sincere they may feel, can be rooted in flawed or even sinful motives.

For example, a person might pray for financial breakthrough or social success. However, underneath that request might be a desire to show off, to get revenge, or to indulge in worldly pleasures. These are not godly motivations, and as such, God may choose not to honor such requests.

This aligns with the teaching found in

> *James 4:2–3 (NKJV):*
> “You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

Here, the Apostle James makes it clear: not all prayers go unanswered because God is unwilling, but because we sometimes pray with wrong motives. When our desires are driven by selfish ambition rather than God’s glory, they fall outside His will.

In contrast,

> *Proverbs 19:21 reminds us that* “the Lord’s purpose prevails.”

This means that God’s sovereign will ultimately overrules human intention. He sees the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10) and

acts in perfect wisdom and love. His plans are not only higher than ours but are also always for our good and His glory.

> *Isaiah 55:8–9 (NIV) reinforces this idea:*
> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.
> “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Application for Believers:

This verse calls us to humility in our planning. It is wise and biblical to make plans (Proverbs 16:9), but we must do so with a surrendered heart. True Christian maturity involves aligning our desires with God’s will and trusting that His purpose—no matter how different from our own—will always be for the best.

That’s why Jesus taught us to pray, *“Your will be done”* (Matthew 6:10). This is not a statement of resignation, but of faith and surrender.

Conclusion:

While it’s natural to dream and set goals, Christians are reminded that God’s sovereign plan is what ultimately comes to pass. Therefore, in all our desires and decisions, we should submit them to God’s will, knowing that His purpose will prevail—and it is always good (Romans 8:28).

Amen.

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