

Retirement as a Ministry: Finding New Purpose in Rest

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11 – *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Extended Summary of Scripture:

Jeremiah's words, originally spoken to exiles in Babylon, remind believers that God has plans for them even in unfamiliar or unexpected seasons. Just as the Israelites were encouraged to build, plant, and seek the prosperity of the place they lived, retirees are called to embrace new seasons with hope and intentionality.

Extended Life Application:

Retirement provides an opportunity to explore new ways to serve, volunteer, mentor, or pursue hobbies that honor God. It's not just a time to relax, but a season to discover new ministries, deepen relationships, and reflect God's love through acts of kindness.

Three Key Factors:

1. **God's Plan Doesn't Stop:** Retirement is a new chapter, not the end.
2. **Meaningful Service Brings Joy:** Volunteering and mentoring create purpose.
3. **Rest is a Gift:** Enjoying rest glorifies God and renews the soul.

Questions & Answers:

1. **What does it mean to prosper in retirement?**
 - Prosperity means finding joy and purpose, not just financial gain.
2. **How can retirees contribute to the church and community?**
 - Through volunteering, mentoring, and being prayer warriors.
3. **How does God's plan include retirement?**
 - He uses every season of life to shape us and bless others.

Reflection:

Retirement is a gift from God—a time to rest, rediscover purpose, and serve others in new ways.

Closing Prayer:

"Lord, thank You for the gift of rest and new beginnings. Help us to embrace this season with joy and a sense of purpose. May we find ways to serve You and others, reflecting Your love through our actions. Amen."