

**Christmas 2007: What I learned from George Bailey about being a disciple.**

Romans 15:4 (NIV) For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

**What I learned from George Bailey about being a disciple.**

**1. Sometimes we make our plans... but God has something else in mind for us.**

**Clip #1 – Son (George) talks about life's plans**

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

Psalms 37:23-24 (NCV) When a person's steps follow the Lord, God is pleased with his ways. If he stumbles, he will not fall, because the Lord holds his hand.

**2. Sometimes the plans of your enemies just push you further along the path God intended.**

**Clip #2 – George & Mary: falling into the pool**

Genesis 50:20 (NIV) You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Psalms 25:1-3 (NIV) To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

**3. Sometimes others in our life know better how to pray for what we need than we do.**

**Clip #3 – George promises Mary the moon.**

Proverbs 31:10-11 (NIV) A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV) Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

**4. Sometimes we face the dark night of our soul...**

**Clip #4 – George offers up a simple prayer.**

1 Peter 3:12 (NIV) For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer...

**5. Sometimes we aren't the only one praying.**

**Clip #5 – The angels decide to help George.**

**6. Sometimes the difference we make, makes all the difference in the world.**

**Clip #6 – George pleads for his former life.**

Psalms 37:7 (NIV) Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

**7. Sometimes we were blind but now we see.**

**Clip #7 – George rejoices at Christmas.**

Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV) I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

**Clip #8 – George's friends come to his rescue**

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV) Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Ephesians 4:12 (NIV) ... so that the body of Christ may be built up...

**Sometimes Every time the dark night of our soul ends with the bright shining of God's morning sunlight:**

**Clip #9 – George learns how truly rich he is.**

Proverbs 11:28 (NIV) Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Romans 11:33-36 (NIV) Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

There's a line in the film that for me sums it all up: "I'm glad I know you, George Bailey."