

*How God's Word Reveals God's Will for Your Life*  
Romans 12:2

We last spoke about a transformation that occurs as we pursue a Word Centered Life. We learned that when we to refuse conformity to the world, and allow God's word to transform us, Christ's presence within us will shine through our lives.

The last section of Romans 12:2 reveals to us that living a Word Centered Life has a definite progression and a definite benefit. Look at the following English translations and notice that being "transformed by the renewing of your mind" yields something that is of great value - the discovery of the will of God.

KJV - "...that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

NAS - "...so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect ."

NIV - "...Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will ."

The closing words of Romans 12:2 emphasize at least three major points:

- 1- There is a direct relationship between God's Word and God's Will
- 2- The will of God is discernable
- 3- The will of God is something of great value

**There is a Direct Relationship Between God's Word and God's Will**

In the preceding text, the following commands were given:

1. Offer your bodies...
2. Do not conform
3. Be transformed
4. By the renewing of your mind

The next words literally read "*to the approving of the will of God.*" This demonstrates that there is a specific purpose and a specific result that will occur when we allow God's word to renew our minds.

Many people apply Romans 12:1-2 backwards. They start with the question, "how can I know God's will?" However, The **KEY** to **Romans 12:1-2** is NOT "finding God's Will." It is **PRESENTING YOURSELF** a **LIVING SACRIFICE**. It is only when we obey the instructions of the first part of Romans 12:2 that we find the will of God.

Louw and Nida (Greek Lexicon of the NT) offer the following definition for the word translated as "TEST and APPROVE": "to regard something as being worthwhile or

appropriate.” The will of God is discovered as something positive, not negative. The testing is a testing to reveal it’s value, not discover its fault.

When our children were younger they took piano lessons. The teacher announced a recital, where their ability would be presented. It was a testing, but not to find fault. This is what happens when we discover God’s will through his word. We see the beauty of his instructions. We discover the true value of his living a life of obedience.

### ***Let’s Talk about the Concept of the Will of GOD***

There are two aspects to the will of God. The first is **His SOVEREIGN WILL**. In the most basic terms, it is *“his absolute right to do all things according to his own good pleasure”* (Easton’s Bible Commentary). This is the aspect of God’s character described as Daniel revealed to Nebuchadnezzar that God was in control of all things: *“Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.... All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?””* (Daniel 4:25, 35)

God’s sovereign will includes the death of Christ on the cross. *“This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.”* (Acts 2:23)

Consider some of the ramifications of the sovereign will of God:

- Nothing has ever occurred that is outside of the sovereign will of God.
- Nothing can ever happen to you outside of the sovereign will of God
- The fall of Satan is included within the sovereign will of God
- The fall of man is included within the sovereign will of God
- Nothing you can do can change the sovereign will of God
- God’s sovereign will is still in effect, even when his moral will is violated
- The mystery of God’s grace allows the sinfulness of man to ultimately bring him glory

The second aspect of God’s will is his **PROCLAIMED WILL**. Everything commanded by the Lord is within the realm of his proclaimed will. It is required that we obey every aspect of his proclaimed will. All will be held accountable for their obedience to His proclaimed will. This judgment will take place at the Great White Throne. *“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”* (Revelation 20:12)

The proclaimed will of God is spoken about in the following passages:

(Matthew 12:50) *"For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*

(Hebrews 10:36) *"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised."*

(1 John 2:17) *"The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."*

Notice just a few of these significant aspects of God's proclaimed will:

- That you be SAVED. 2 Peter 3:9 *"The Lord is not slow about His promise. . ."* (1 Tim 2:4)
- That you be HOLY - (1 Thessalonians 4:3) *"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;"*
- That the righteous suffer. (1 Peter 4:19) *"So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."*
- For Children to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1)
- for Husbands to love their wives (Ephesians 5:25)
- For Believers to love and forgive one another (John 13:34)
- To share the gospel to the world (Matthew 28:19-20)
- To be baptized

God would NEVER expect that we do something in violation of his PROCLAIMED WILL. I mention this because Christians often attempt to justify their behavior with statements such as "I believe this is God's will." Sometimes the actions are contrary to the clear will of God. A young man who wants to move in with his girlfriend cannot say, "I've prayed about this and the I believe this is God's will." It cannot be God's will if the Word of God speaks against it!

A man who once me if you can marry God's second best woman. In high school, he had an admiration with another girl but things didn't work out. He lived with bitterness, regret, disappointment. He was disappointed with his wife, wishing his admiration would have wanted him. Hypothetical questions about the will of God are silly and pointless for us to ask. The only aspect of God's will that we can interact with is the proclaimed will of God. And for this married man, the proclaimed will of God gave him clear instructions:

- *"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."* (1 Peter 3:7)
- *"Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."* (Colossians 3:19)
- *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"* (Ephesians 5:25)
- *"However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."* (Ephesians 5:33)

**So, we can confidently say that We find the WILL of GOD in the WORD of GOD**

In the OT prophets continually repeated the phrase. *"The Word of the Lord came to ...."* This

was a clear reminder that God was communicating His will to the people through a spoken word through the prophet. ”

God’s word is eternal. It is not without consequence. God will accomplish his will through his Word. *"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."* (Isaiah 55:10-11)

In the NT, Jesus and the inspired authors frequently validated the fact that the written word of God was a clear message from the Lord.

*"For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God."* (Acts 20:27)

*"I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."*

(Matthew 5:18)

*"But the word of the Lord stands forever."* *And this is the word that was preached to you."* (1 Peter 1:25)

**SO, the BIBLE declares that God’s WORD and His WILL are inseparable.** If you hope to find direction for specific QUESTIONS, you must be living in obedience to the PROCLAIMED will of God!

**The will of God is discernable.**

The MESSAGE is understandable. **Romans 10:5-9**

Quotation from (Deuteronomy 30:11-14) *"Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it."*

God desires to be KNOWN.

(1 John 5:20) *"We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life."*

(1 Corinthians 2:16) *"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ."*

**The will of God is something of great value.** Romans 12:2 gives the following description of the will of God:

- GOOD. It’s VALUE
- PLEASING. It’s EFFECT

- PERFECT. Its EXTENT

### **How Can I Know How to Make the Right Choices?**

We don't want to "mess up" our lives. We would like to know the answers to questions that are sometimes hard. We wonder, are God's specific plans revealed to us in the process of an obedient life? Do the choices we make really matter? How do I know what God wants me to do?

The answer to these questions is found first of all in whether there are moral or spiritual implications to the questions we are asking. If something violates the written will of God, it is clearly against his will. A Christian marrying a non-Christian is a violation of God's will. Failing to be baptized is a violation of God's will. Continuing a gossiping tongue is against God's will.

If the question you have is something with no clear moral implications, then we must trust the Lord to lead us, following godly principles of life.

If you are living an obedient, Word centered life, then you can trust the Lord to direct you in your decisions. *"Who, then, is the man that fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him."* (Psalm 25:12) Also, see Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9.

The following verses also direct us to trust the Lord with the difficult decisions of Life:

- *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you."* (Psalm 32:8)
- *"Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."* (Psalm 37:3-4)
- *"If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumbles he will not fall, for he upholds him with his hand."* (Psalm 37:23-24)

The point here is that when we walk with the Lord, all we should do is use godly wisdom, bathed in prayer, and then pursue the path that we believe will work best.

When we get in trouble, we say, "Lord show me what to do, and I'll serve you forever."

God wants to hear "Father, I'll serve you forever." THEN He will show us what to do!