

Romans 12:1-2 - Part 21
Discovering God's Will for Your Life
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Eph. 5:15-17 (ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- The first half of Romans is about what to believe
- The second half is about how to behave
- Sound doctrine leads to sound living
- What you believe is going to affect how you live

Romans 12:1-2 (MSG) So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

- There is no magic formula

How to Discover God's Will

1st) Understand the Rule of **RECOGNITION**.

Romans 11:36 (NIV) For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

- God's will for you is Jesus!
- We must recognize Jesus as God's will in our lives
- "Everything you need in your life is already in your life merely awaiting your recognition of it"
- The Pharisees did not recognize the divinity of Jesus
- It cost them
- Eternity
- Miracles
- The Joy of His Presence

Brother Lawrence - The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in His divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with him in all seasons, at every moment, without limiting the conversation in any way.

Psalm 16:11 (ESV) You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- Spiritual people don't always cooperate with the law of recognition

Mark 8:18 (ESV) Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?

- The rule of recognizing Jesus can turn a lifetime of failure into instant success!

Luke 22:42-43 (ESV) And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

- The rule of recognizing Jesus can move you from obscurity to significance in a single day!

Matthew 9:9 (NIV) As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

1 Tim. 2:4 (ERV) God wants everyone to be saved and to fully understand the truth.

John 6:27-29 (NLT) But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man[a] can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval." They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?" Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

2nd) Understand the Concept of **COMMITMENT**.

Romans 12:1 (MSG) So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.

- The secret to knowing God's will is to be willing to follow your heart
- God's personal will for you
- Passion
- What do you love?
- What creates a fire in you?
- Fire creates heat but it can also burn
- What can exhilarate you can also exhaust you
- Balance
- Captivated by the Gospel of Jesus

The most holy and important practice in the spiritual life is the presence of God - that is, every moment to take great pleasure that God is with you - Brother Lawrence

Three Characteristics of Christian Commitment

It's **SUPPORTED**.

Romans 12:1a (MSG) So here's what I want you to do, God helping you

- You're not walking this alone

Phil 2:12-13 (NIV) Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

It's **PRACTICAL**.

Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life

It's **CONTINUAL**.

and place it before God as an offering.

- The starting point for knowing God's will is dedication

3rd) Understand the Delight of **DIFFERENCE**.

Romans 12:2 (MSG) Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.

- Anti-cultural
- God's will: New Ways to Think and New Ways to Act

1 Thess. 5:16-18 (NIV) Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- Without even thinking.
- The world's values system
- Don't be caught up in the spirit of the age -- "me first"
- Phillips: "Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold."

Three Ways of Relating to the World

- Isolate
- Imitate
- Insulate
- Culture is a totally unreliable source for getting your guidance in life

Exodus 23:2 (NIV) "Don't follow the crowd in doing wrong."

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

4th) Understand the Advantage of **ATTENTION**.

Romans 12:2b (MSG) Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.

- Transformation

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

- His Word
- When you feed on the Word of God, you grow spiritually
- The Bible is food for your soul

Acts 20:32 (GNT) "And now I commend you to the care of God and to the message of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you the blessings God has for all his people."

- The Word of Grace will build you up