

PROVING GOD'S WILL-PT 4

“...THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD.”

ROMANS 12:1-2

Introduction

For the last three messages from this passage, we have been seeing what it takes to **PROVE GOD'S WILL** in one's life! Understand that this is **NOT** speaking to just a certain segment of those in the **CHURCH!**

Paul is writing this **DOCTRINAL EPISTLE** to **ALL** the **BELIEVERS** in the **LOCAL CHURCH** at **ROME!** (*Romans 1:7*) What's good for those in **ROME**, is good for those in each and every **NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH!**

(So, we need to understand that the **BIBLE** reveals here that it is **GOD'S WILL** for **EVERY BELIEVER** to **PROVE GOD'S WILL** in their life by living a life that is **PLEASING TO GOD!**)

And understand too that a **GODLY CHRISTIAN LIFE** is to be a **LIFESTYLE** for **EVERY BELIEVER!** It is not just a thing you do on **CHURCH DAYS** or at **CHURCH TIME** or in front of **CHURCH PEOPLE** or on a **PART-TIME BASIS** or when it is **CONVENIENT!**

By the way, the **CHRISTIAN LIFE** and **WALK** is **NOT CONVENIENT**, but it is a **WALK BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH** with **CHRIST** being with us every step of the way!
If you are a **BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER...THIS...IS...FOR...YOU!**

Tonight, in this final segment, I want to pull everything we've learned together and see the great importance of this in our lives!

To begin with let me ask a sincere and pointed question. **How serious are you about finding out the WILL OF GOD for your life and doing it?**

You might SAY, “Well of course preacher I want to FIND AND DO GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE!” I could ask for a show of hands tonight (which I won't) and most every hand, if not every hand, would be raised!

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In my 37+ years of **BIBLE MINISTRY**, I have met a lot of **BELIEVERS** who **SAY** with their mouth that they want to **KNOW GOD'S WILL** for their life! It is **WHAT WE OUGHT TO SAY AS BELIEVERS!**

But the **PROOF** or the **SINCERITY** of one's answer (or lack thereof) is not found in what one **SAYS** in answer to that question, but in what one **DOES** in their life!

The **PROOF** is in taking the **BIBLICAL ADMONITION** from the **APOSTLE PAUL** here in these two verses and **PUTTING THE PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE IN ONE'S LIFE!**

I. NOTE AGAIN WHAT IS REQUIRED TO PROVE GOD'S WILL IN YOUR LIFE!

A. Sacrificial Surrender!

Vs 1b “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable unto God...”

That is an acceptance of the TRUTH that as BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS, we are NOT OUR OWN, but we are BOUGHT WITH A PRICE and therefore we should GLORIFY GOD in our BODY and in our SPIRIT which are GOD'S! (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*)

With the acceptance of that **TRUTH** we **VOLUNTARILY** and **SACRIFICIALLY SURRENDER** to **GOD'S WILL** for us instead of what **we** or **anybody else** wants for us!

Plus, we take care to **PRESENT OUR BODY** as a **LIVING, HOLY, and ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE!** Because that is **GOD'S WILL** or how **HE** wants us to **PRESENT** ourselves!

(e.g. In the **OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM**, who determined what was or was not an **ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE? GOD did!**)

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Why would we expect any difference in a NEW TESTAMENT SACRIFICE? The OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICES typified or pointed to WHOM? JESUS CHRIST! To WHOM do the NEW TESTAMENT SACRIFICES point to? Also, JESUS CHRIST!

Galatians 2:20– “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

LIVING – “...the life which I now live in the flesh...”

The LIFE that we now live in the flesh is the RESURRECTED LIFE OF CHRIST which we live BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH!

HOLY – “...nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...”

1 Peter 1:15–16– “15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD – Only ONE LIFE has ever been ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD! The LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST!

“...but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God...”

Romans 6:11-13; 8:10-14

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO PROVE GOD'S WILL IN YOUR LIFE?
Sacrificial Surrender

B. Obeying A Negative Command: “Be Not Conformed To This World!”

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1 Peter 1:14– “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:”

1 John 2:15–16– “15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

The WORLD is no longer our PATTERN of CONFORMITY, JESUS is!

Romans 6:4–6– “4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

1 Peter 2:21–24– “21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:...”

Colossians 3:1–3– “1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”

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WHAT IS REQUIRED TO PROVE GOD'S WILL IN YOUR LIFE?

Sacrificial Surrender...Obeying A Negative Command: “Be Not Conformed To This World”

C. **Obeying A Positive Command: “But Be Ye Transformed By The Renewing Of Your Mind!”**

“Transformed” means “to change into a different form”.

Instead of *“being conformed to this world”* we are to be *“be conformed to the image of” CHRIST!* (Romans 8:29)

That *transformation* is a daily, life-long process!

I base this point on the tense, voice, and mood of the verb translated as *“transformed”*. It is in the *present tense*, indicating that it is *an ongoing process*.

So, we’re not talking about a quick fix or a dramatic, instantaneous change, but a **steady, lifelong progress toward godliness**.

The verb translated *“transformed”* is also in the *passive voice*, indicating that *this is a work of GOD in us*. But it is also in the *imperative mood*, indicating that **we are not totally passive in the process!**

We are responsible to discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness!

1 Timothy 4:7–8–“7 But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. 8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”

This balance is found in *Philippians 2:12-13!*

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We have to **OBEY** and **WORK OUT** the **SALVATION** in us that **GOD** has **GIVEN** us and is **WORKING** in us! **HE** is **WORKING** in us **HIS WILL** and to do of **HIS** good pleasure!

Now we know that **sometimes GOD works instant, permanent change**. I’ve heard testimony of alcoholics who got saved and never had an urge to take another drink! I’ve heard of drug addicts who got saved and never used drugs again!

On rare occasions, a man with a fierce temper gets saved and he never explodes in anger again. But those are usually the exceptions, rather than the general rule.

Many things are a life-long battle of depending on the **LORD!** At first there may be many setbacks. We learn through failure, as Peter painfully did. But as we learn to walk in the **HOLY SPIRIT** rather than the **FLESH**, we should see progress in **transformation** as the **HOLY SPIRIT’S FRUIT** is produced in us! (*Galatians 5:16-23*)

GOD does not change our basic personality type; rather **HE changes the sinful manifestations of our personality!**

e.g. Before PAUL was converted, he was a hard-driving, everything-for-the-cause type of man! After he was saved, he was all out as well, but for the LORD rather than against HIM! And as he grew in the LORD, he mellowed and became more gracious in the LORD! (We see that from when John Mark left Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey, Paul wouldn’t consider giving him a second try. He and Barnabas had a fierce conflict and parted ways over the matter. But later in life, just prior to his death, Paul told Timothy! 2 Timothy 4:11– “...Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.”

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GOD will use our personality, but **HE** will also sandpaper off our rough edges! We need to study the weaknesses that we are prone to, so that we can be on guard against them and work to overcome them!

Only **GOD** can **RENEW** us through the resources we saw last week— **HIS HOLY SPIRIT, THE WORD OF GOD, PRAYER,** and **HIS LOCAL CHURCH!**

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO PROVE GOD'S WILL IN YOUR LIFE?

1. *Sacrificial Surrender.* 2. *Obeying A Negative Command: “Be Not Conformed To This World”.* 3. *Obeying A Positive Command: “But Be Ye Transformed By The Renewing Of Your Mind!”*

II. WHEN WE HAVE THESE THREE ESSENTIALS IN OUR LIFE THE RESULT IS THAT WE WILL PROVE IN PRACTICE GOD'S GOOD, ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT WILL!

A. We Are To Prove In Practice What GOD'S Will Is!

“Prove” means “to discern and approve by testing.”

i.e. We live out **GOD'S WILL** for our life and the proof of it being **GOD'S WILL** is in the **FRUIT** or what comes out of doing it!

B. GOD'S Will Is Good!

“Good” refers to “moral goodness or holiness.”

GOD'S WILL is **GOOD** and it is also ultimately also **GOOD FOR US**, because **SIN** always **DAMAGES** us, whereas **HOLINESS** always **RESTORES** and **BLESSES** our life!

C. GOD'S Will Is Acceptable!

Acceptable primarily means, *“acceptable or pleasing to God.”*

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Ephesians 5:8–10— “8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Romans 14:17–19— “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

We are to **prove in practice what pleases GOD!** Of course, this is also pleasing to us...in the long run!

Often **obedience to GOD'S standards** may be difficult at the moment and may bring some unintended consequences from the world, but we obey anyway!

(e.g. Joseph's refusal to compromise his morals in being wicked with Potiphar's wife!) The world would look at that and say yes he did the right thing but what did it get him? He got thrown into prison!)

But in the long run, **GOD'S WILL** is always better for us in the end than disobedience is.

D. GOD'S Will Is Perfect!

“Perfect” refers to **GOD'S absolute moral perfection**, which we will never attain to perfectly in this life.

But the word also means *“mature”* or *“complete.”* **Proving GOD'S will** in practice moves us towards the goal of **true spiritual maturity, that is becoming more like CHRIST,** which in the end is the goal!

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Conclusion

For things to get better in our life, we must change from what we were when we came into this world—A carnal minded sinner at enmity with God!

To change, we needed the **SALVATION** provided by **JESUS CHRIST** our **LORD** by which we gained **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** that we could not attain apart from **HIM!** If you don't have **SALVATION** all of your efforts to do **GOD'S GOOD**, and **ACCEPTABLE**, and **PERFECT WILL** are in vain!

For those of us who are **IN CHRIST**, the goal is to be **LIKE CHRIST!** To be **LIKE CHRIST** we must **SACRIFICIALLY SURRENDER** our **BODY** as a **LIVING SACRIFICE** unto **GOD** that is **HOLY** and **ACCEPTABLE** unto **HIM**, not allowing ourselves to be **CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD** as we were before **CHRIST**, but to be involved in the **TRANSFORMATION** process of changing into the likeness of **CHRIST** by the **RENEWING OUR MIND**, so that we are **PROVING IN PRACTICE** what is **GOD'S GOOD**, and **ACCEPTABLE**, and **PERFECT WILL**