

**TEXT: Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

I titled this message, "*Finding* the will of God" on purpose. This is a common theme, and it is a popular subject, for some reason.

But I want you to notice that our text uses the word *prove!* Instead of *find what is...* it is *prove what is...* prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God!

Therefore, the first thing Christians need to know, in regard to this subject, is that we cannot know or find the will of God for our lives, until we quit conforming ourselves to this world; and become transformed by the renewing of our minds! Notice the words, *that ye may*. In other words, it is not likely possible to find the will of God for our lives, until we quit living and thinking like the lost world!

This is the first thing. Too many Christians desire to start at the wrong end. They profess to be interested in the Lord's will for their lives, yet, in reality, they are worldly. They are thinking like lost people:

**1 John 2:15** 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.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come...

This is therefore the forgotten, neglected will of God: Quit being worldly. Quit being conformed to this world. Quit thinking like worldly people. We do not need to, "*find* the will of God for our lives," in the modern sense of so many "sermonettes for Christianettes." We need to begin by *obeying* the will of God! We need an entire renewal of our way of thinking. Then, when we see plainly and clearly what God intends for us, and His ways and commands, we are in a better position to prove His will in other particulars! The Scriptures, studied with a humble heart, will renew our thinking. We must get the focus off of ourselves, and our own pleasure and worldly glory. As long as we are focused here - we will always be confused about the will of God!:

**John 5:30** I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and **my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**

**John 4:34** Jesus saith unto them, My meat is **to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

Too many modern Christians cannot prove or judge anything related to the will of God. They are drunk with worldliness. They are seeking their own will. They are therefore only interested in the "will of God," as far as it means seeking their own will, or having their own will empowered or justified! This type of self-seeking is really self-will disguised as the will of God:

**Genesis 49:6** O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and **in their selfwill** they digged down a wall.

This self-will is after the pattern of Satan:

**Isaiah 14:13** For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the most High.

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Until we are cleansed from the "I will's" of Lucifer, how can we know and prove the will of God?:

**John 5:44** **How can ye** believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Think of how often the Lord attempted to renew the minds of His professed followers:

**Luke 12:13** And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness...

They wanted Jesus to be *added on* to their plans. They are still self-seeking. They are still conformed to this world. They are not in a state that is ready to really hear His will:

**Romans 15:3** For even Christ pleased not himself...

**Hebrews 10:9** Then said he, Lo, **I come to do thy will, O God...**

Millions of Christians are heaping to themselves teachers who will tickle their ears concerning the will of God. But the Scriptures do not begin with *us*. The order is always, *In the beginning God*. And we must be transformed and renewed from perverting this order. This is where *finding the will of God* for our lives must begin:

**Philippians 2:4** Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5 **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:**

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death...

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That is the beginning! That is the foundation. The *will of God* is not our *own self-will*. When we are willing to give up our own will, and present our bodies as a living SACRIFICE - then, and only then, are we ready to hear from God!:

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

**6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

When we are looking for God to simply ratify and bless our own plans, we are in the same state as the rich young ruler, who went away sorrowful. Like many today, he was "trying to find the will of God for his life." He *ran* to meet the Lord, and even kneeled, outwardly (Mark 10:17) - until he discovered that the Lord's plans were different from his own! He was conformed to this world. He was not ready to hear the Lord's specific will for his life. He even professed to be focused on winning the coming kingdom. But in reality, he wanted to win it by doing his own thing, in his own way. He was not really presenting himself a living sacrifice.

The reason so few Christians will take this first step is that it is scary. But this is why Proverbs 3:3-5 begins with, *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding*, and it ends with, *Be not wise in thine own eyes*. Do we really know what is best for us?:

**Proverbs 23:4** Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

Romans 12:1-3, concludes this teaching with the words: *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly...*

We often think we are "too good" for a lowly place:

**Jeremiah 45:5** And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not...

**Lamentations 3:26** It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.  
27 It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

Until we get a servant mind - a sacrificial mindset - a humble mind - we are not even close to being directed by the Lord:

**John 7:17** If any man will do his will, he shall know...

Too many modern Christians will never really know the will of God for their lives - for the simple reason that they will not obey the will of God - in general things, or the particulars.

But once we have the proper mindset of submission (*nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done*), before we seek any details or particulars concerning the will of God for our lives, we need to hear and obey what God has already revealed generally concerning His will!:

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** In every thing give thanks: for **this is the will** of God in Christ Jesus **concerning you**.

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Ingratitude and murmuring are signs that we are not yet submitted to God's will. If we are already rebelling against His Providence, what makes us think we sincerely desire to hear His will in other areas?

**1 Thessalonians 4:3** For **this is the will of God**, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

We are not ready to be directed by God until we are "meet for the Master's use," as a "vessel of honour." How can we be directed by God if we are not presenting ourselves - not only as a sacrifice - but as a sacrifice *holy, acceptable unto God* (Romans 12:1)?:

**1 Peter 4:2** That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but **to the will of God**.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought **the will of the Gentiles**, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

Let us have a thankful spirit; and a clean, holy life of obedience in these areas of the general, revealed will of God. Let us trust Him, and fear Him, and acknowledge Him in every thing. Be thankful in every thing, and abstain from fornication. These things are plainly revealed to be God's will for us. Unthankful, complaining people will never be directed by God. Fornicators will not be directed by God. But there is more:

**1 Peter 2:13** Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

15 **For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:**

Rebellious people that do not obey the Lord's earthly, ordained authorities, are not ready to hear from the Lord. So many go wrong right here. They have an "authority problem"! How can they really be taught of God?:

**Psalms 25:9** The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Therefore, in general, let us obey the things that the Lord has already revealed to be His will; and we can then know that He will guide us into more light:

**Micah 6:8** He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and **what doth the LORD require of thee**, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

**Luke 8:18** Take heed therefore **how ye hear**: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given...