

# LOOK BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

## KNOWING GOD'S WILL 5

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV11)

Romans 12:1-2 With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give Him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable by Him. <sup>2</sup> Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the Plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity. (JB Philipps)

**Therefore**

**I urge you**

**Present your bodies**

**Living sacrifice**

Luke 9:23-24 Then [Jesus] said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it."

**Test and approve**

2 thoughts:

**You will be able to discern God's will.**

NLT: Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

ESV: that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

CSB: so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

CEV: Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.

GNT: Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

NCV: Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.

**You will try his will and find it good.**

TLB: Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you.

PHILLIPS: so that you may prove in practice that the Plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.

NET: so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect. [Note: carries the sense of "test with a positive outcome," "test so as to approve"]

WUEST: resulting in your putting to the test what is the will of God, the good and well-pleasing and complete will, and having found that it meets specifications, place your approval upon it.

**Therefore / in view of God's mercy / with eyes wide open**

Key: Look backward to plunge forward.

## God's Mercy in Romans 1-11

**Romans 1:16** [the gospel] is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...

**Romans 1:17** For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

**Romans 2:4** ...God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

**Romans 3:22a** This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

**Romans 3:23-24** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

**Romans 3:28** For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

**Romans 4:4-5** Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup> However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

**Romans 4:16** Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

**Romans 5:1-2** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand...

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 5:9-10** Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

**Romans 5:18** Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.

**Romans 5:20-21** ...But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 6:8** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

**Romans 6:14** For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

**Romans 7:6** ...we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit...

**Romans 8:1-2** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

**Romans 8:3-4** For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might

be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**Romans 8:11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

**Romans 8:14** For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

**Romans 8:15-16** ...the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

**Romans 8:17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...

**Romans 8:18** I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

**Romans 8:29** For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

**Romans 8:30** And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

**Romans 8:31-32** ...If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

**Romans 8:33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

**Romans 8:34** ...Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

**Romans 8:35-37** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

**Romans 8:38-39** ...[nothing] in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 9:16** It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

**Romans 9:22-24** What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? <sup>23</sup> What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— <sup>24</sup> even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

**Romans 10:9-10** If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

**Romans 11:6** And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

**Romans 11:22** Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.