

WORD

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God---this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer 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.

Romans 12:1,2

WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

Most people today overlook the Bible as their source for direction. Oftentimes, they base their decision-making on how much money they have on the bank or the state of the nation's economy, and some even trust mystical practices and gurus like horoscopes, psychics, and mediums. However, why should we make God's will our priority in seeking guidance? How will we know God's will?

- **Offer yourself to God.**

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Romans 12:1

Offering ourselves to God means that we are giving Him the right to call the shots. Once we do, things will be done His way, not ours. It means that we obey His commands and follow His direction, making Him the Lord of our lives. What assurance does the Scripture give to us why we can trust God (Jeremiah 29:11; John 10:11)?

- **Turn away from worldly ways.**

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world . . .

Romans 12:2

We all have a way of doing things that we are used to, but most of these are not in line with God's ways. And though we have a choice which one to follow, it is much wiser to follow a path that we can trust. Why can we trust God's ways and why are they better than the world's (Isaiah 55:8,9; Luke 6:46-49)?

- **Renew your mind.**

. . . be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2

They say change starts from within and therefore, before going about following God's ways we first need to renew our minds. Our minds have been shaped by many factors, and often our thinking dictates our actions and decisions. We need to renew our minds to align it with God's ways if we want to follow Him and follow His will. How can we renew our minds (John 17:17)?

SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- In what areas in your life do you need to let God take charge? How will you let Him?
- When making decisions, what habits do you have that you think are not in line with God's ways? What alternative does the Scripture offer?
- What worldly thinking or mindset is still a struggle for you? Why do you think so?

NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- How can you fully obey God? What areas of your life are you ready and willing to surrender to His Lordship?
- Which practices or habits do you think God is telling you to give up? With whom can you be accountable to as you make this decision?
- What time and place can you commit for reading the Word? What other avenues can you join or practice so you can hear or learn more about God's Word?