

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?*

God has always been faithful to keep the end of the bargain and even meet us more than halfway. Before we are asked to obey His Word, He has already provided a way for us to know His will through the Bible. Now, it is up to us to decide to follow Him or not. Here are some practical guidelines in obeying God's will for the rest of our lives.

- **Dedicate our lives to God.**

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.

Romans 12:1, The Message

When we place our lives before God as an offering, we strategically position ourselves better and stronger in obeying His will. Living a life that is pleasing to God makes us adept in knowing and obeying His will. What can enable us to obey God's will for our lives?

- **Deviate from the world's standards.**

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

Romans 12:2

It is hard to obey God's will when we are too familiar with the ways of the world. Being too familiar with worldly principles will eventually lead to compromise. We need to align our thinking with God's will for us to obey Him fully. How do we renew our minds?

- **Depend completely on God.**

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5,6

. . . for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Philippians 2:13

Obeying God's will entails trust in the Lord. And this is not just for times when we can no longer handle things—we are to trust God at all times and depend on Him for everything every day! Why can we confidently depend on God (Hebrews 13:6)?

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

- What happens when we dedicate our lives to God? What benefits do we get from doing so?
- What is the difference between the world's standards and God's standards? What does the power of the gospel empower us to do?
- When must we fully depend on God? What does trusting in the Lord have to do with knowing and obeying His will?

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

- Looking at your life, what is one thing that hinders you from fully obeying God's will? What will you do about it?
- What thinking do you feel God is pointing at for you to change? What and who can help you change this?
- What is one major thing that God is asking you to do in this season of your life? How are you going to trust Him as you obey His will for your life?