

Romans 12 – Part I:

Keys to Knowing the Will of God

Brief Summary – Key Points & Themes

In Romans 12, Paul makes a passionate appeal: in light of God's mercy, we are called to live lives of worship. This worship is about surrender. When we offer our bodies as living sacrifices and renew our minds through the Word and presence of God, we begin to walk in His perfect will. Pastor taught that before we chase after God's will, we must first commit to a life of worship that is marked by personal consecration, spiritual transformation, and sanctified concentration. Only then will we experience the good, acceptable, and perfect plan God has for our lives.

Key Themes:

- Worship is our response to God's mercy
- Transformation starts in the mind
- Knowing God's will flows from surrendered living
- Personal purpose is discovered in community

Key Scriptures Used

- Romans 12:1–2
- Romans 8:29–30
- Romans 10:13
- Revelation 22:17
- Joshua 24:15
- Matthew 19:21–22

Study Questions & Answers

Q1: What does it mean to be a “living sacrifice”?

A: It means offering our whole lives to God daily, not just in death but in how we live—surrendering our will, desires, and actions to His refining process. We stay on the altar even when the fire gets hot.

Q2: Why is worship the starting point for discovering God's will?

A: Worship aligns our hearts with God's. Before we can discern His direction, we must surrender our own. True worship positions us to hear from God clearly.

Q3: What is the difference between “conforming” and “transforming”?

A: Conforming is adapting to the world's standards and behaviors. Transforming is a supernatural, internal change that happens as we renew our minds through God's Word and presence.

Q4: How can we practically renew our minds?

A: By immersing ourselves in Scripture, prayer, and worship. We exchange worldly thinking for godly thinking, allowing His truth to shape our thoughts and decisions.

Q5: What is the promise in Romans 12:2 for those who live a life of worship?

A: They will be able to test and discern God's will—what is good, acceptable, and perfect. It means walking in clarity and confidence about the path God has for you.

Q6: How does personal purpose connect with the Body of Christ?

A: Though we each have individual callings, they are fulfilled in community. Romans 12:1 uses the plural “bodies” but the singular “sacrifice”—pointing to our shared life of worship and purpose in the church.

Q7: What are some reasons people avoid fully surrendering their lives to God?

A: Fear of losing control, misunderstanding God's character, past disappointments, or simply not knowing what surrender looks like. But real purpose and peace are found in giving God everything.

Family Spotlight – “Stay on the Altar!”

Object Lesson for Kids and Families:

Use a toy or action figure and set it on a small “altar” (like a pillow or table). Give the pillow or table a little shaking.

Ask: “What happens if the toy keeps getting off the altar?” (It's not doing what it was meant to do!) Even when life gets a little tough and shaky, we can't take out life off of the altar. We trust God know best.

Then say:

“When we say ‘yes’ to Jesus, we’re choosing to stay close to Him—even when it’s hard. That’s what it means to be a living sacrifice.”

Illustration Tip:

Draw a picture of an altar and write your family members’ names on it. Talk about one thing each of you can surrender to God this week.

Memory Verse:

Romans 12:1 – “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” (NIV)