



EXPERIENCING GOD'S WILL

ROMANS 12:1-2 * JULY 16, 2023

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

- ① a living sacrifice = to be _____
to doing whatever God wants me to do.
- ② conformed to the pattern of this age = to take my values, my standards, and my priorities from the _____.

SOME BAD NEWS

- We _____ conform to the world; it's our _____ setting.
- The world's way of thinking reflects Satan's _____.

THE (gods) OF THIS WORLD

✓ _____ ✓ _____ ✓ _____ ✓ _____

- ③ renewing your mind = to align my values, my standards, and my priorities with _____
_____.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- ① GALATIANS 2:20; COLOSSIANS 3:17; JOHN 15:4-5
- ② EPHESIANS 2:1-3; COLOSSIANS 1:13-14; 1 PETER 1:14-16
- ③ JOHN 8:31-32; ROMANS 8:5-6; PSALM 119:11

A REMEDY FOR SPIRITUAL STAGNATION

FROM ROMANS 12:1-2

- ① Spend some time reflecting on the _____ of God — especially focusing on the _____.
- ② Remember that the only _____ response to God's mercies is _____ devotion.
- ③ Dedicate yourself to _____ your mind with Scripture, in time alone and in _____ with others.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. When did you really have to sacrifice for something? What did you give up? What made you willing to invest so much of yourself to achieve that goal?
2. Read Romans 12:1-2. Describe in your own words what is involved in the commitment Paul urges in verse one. What right does God have to ask us for this kind of all-in commitment to Him?
3. Why do you think Paul uses the imagery of living sacrifices to describe our reasonable response to God's mercy? Why do you think this kind of service of worship is pleasing to God?
4. What can we do to resist the pressures of the world? What does it mean to stop conforming? What does it mean to let God change the way you think? How can this happen?
5. Read Ephesians 4:17-24. What is this passage about? What principle or phrase from this passage compares to the themes found in Romans 12:1-2?
6. We usually conform to the ways of the world because the payoff seems worth making. Unfortunately, it's often the last step in a series of bad choices. Thinking of a time you succumbed to a familiar temptation, can you identify the steps that led to your sin. What lessons can you learn from this experience versus the steps given above for combating spiritual stagnation.
7. Do you ever obey God out of fear? What would change if you obeyed Him out of gratitude and a desire to please Him?