

4Ws

work
matters

KNOW GOD'S WILL: BE CONSECRATED!

MAY 1, 2022

WORSHIP

Majestic, Lord Of All
Creation, Take My Life,
Build My Life,
Jesus Son of God,
I Surrender All

WELCOME

When faced with a major
decision, who do you first
turn to for advice?

WORD

ROMANS 12:1-2 (READ UP TO V.8)

Therefore I urge you, brethren,
by the mercies of God, to
present your bodies a living
and holy sacrifice, acceptable
to God, which is your spiritual
service of worship. ² And do
not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the
renewing of your mind, so that
you may prove what the will of
God is, that which is good and
acceptable and perfect.

How do you discern God's will for your life? When it comes to marriage, career, and other decisions, it is so important to know God's will. At the end of our lives, we will all spend 80% of our total waking hours working, so it is imperative that we know His will, so we do not waste even just a moment of this life. To consecrate means to "dedicate" or "surrender". **Romans 12:1** gives the command – to present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice. It follows the previous chapters – **Romans 1-11** show the "mercies of God" and tells us who God is and what He has done for us; our problem as sinners and Christ's sacrifice, our goal of sanctification, and the power of the Holy Spirit that empowers us to live holy lives. It is because of all these things that this command in chapter 12 was given.

1. CONSECRATE YOUR BODY

We're called to consecrate our entire lives, beginning with our bodies. In the Old Testament, the sacrifice offered to the Lord is dead. In the New Testament, the true sacrifice for God is one that is LIVING and SET APART. The day you dedicate your entire life to God, you surrender ownership of your body to God. You will do whatever God wants you to do, and not whatever you just desire to do. This is an act of worship! It is a total act of commitment done out of complete trust in God.

Galatians 2:20 reminds us that we have died to ourselves, crucified with Jesus on the cross. A lot of Christians can be full of themselves, and this is why you see conflict, sensitivity, dissensions, factions, divisions – all because they have not understood God's heart.

2. CONSECRATE YOUR INTELLECT

Romans 12:2 calls us to renew our minds – the grammar changes! While the first verse is a one-time act or decision that delivers a lasting effect, this second verse contains a present-imperative verb – implying that they are already being conformed, copying the values of the world. It simply tells us to STOP COPYING THE WORLD. **1 John 2:16** reminds us of the problem of the world – self-exultation---and even Christians can be guilty of this. Instead of thinking how we can be of service to others, we usually look at things based on what we can get out of it.

When we consecrate our intellect, it means to not let the world mold our thought life. Some Christians think it's okay because everyone's doing it, but that's worldly, and the challenge for the followers of Jesus is to make sure our response out of gratitude is a consecrated lifestyle and allow God's Spirit to change us. You need to change how your mind thinks! How do we do this? **Psalms 1:1-3** shows the value of delighting in the law of the LORD. This means saturating your mind in God's Word – and the promise of goodness and prosperity was given. **Joshua 1:8** also promises the same thing, but the condition is that the Word of God should

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be retained in our lives daily, and we are to be careful to do all things in accordance to Bible truths. There is no shortcut! **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** says that our battles are not of the flesh – we are in an ongoing spiritual warfare, but we should “take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ”.

3. CONSECRATE YOUR GIFTS

Romans 12:3-5 gives us a reminder not to think highly of ourselves, but instead with sound judgment, especially in being part of one body. The Christian life is never meant to be lived for yourself – we are all given opportunities to serve others! In the same manner, **1 Corinthians 12:3-5** emphasizes our role towards ONE ANOTHER – we contribute and help one another in our own capacities and giftings, and it helps the entire body function better. We all have roles to play! Romans 12:6-8 reminds us that we have been gifted with talents and spiritual gifts (ex., prophecy, service, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, showing mercy), and we must exercise them accordingly. There is no Christian that should be passive. We were taught the STAIR Principle: Spiritual Gift, Talents, Aspiration, Influence, and Realities.

For example, **1 Corinthians 7:21** shows some realities in life that we cannot escape. All these things should guide you in determining how best to use your gifts for God's glory!

Many of us know MOSES – **Acts 7:22-44** recounts three parts of Moses' life. For the first, he was a prince; for the second, he was a simple shepherd; for the third, at the age of 80, God took the initiative to give a mission for Moses. God wanted Moses to learn through it all, and though he once was a hesitant follower, Moses surrendered completely and followed God all the way. Now he is known for one great mission – with God, Moses led Israel out of Egypt, showing God's work and power as he obeyed Him step by step.

Dr. Bill Bright in an interview, gave the following remarks, which we hope we will also agree to and remember as we close the series:

“A slave doesn't have rights. A slave does not own what he pours his life blood into. A slave of Jesus is at peace, no matter what the circumstances, because he can completely trust his good and faithful master... I am a slave of Jesus. It is not the responsibility of the slave to be successful; the only responsibility of a slave is to do what the master asks him to do. When you understand this, you will also understand a slave does not have problems; a slave only has opportunities to see the Master work.”

May we all learn to know God's will for our lives, as we consecrate our lives, our work, our decisions to Him. May we live our lives constantly glorifying Him in everything we think, say, or do!

DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What talents or spiritual gifts has God given you? You may check the GLC website Book 3, Session 3 Experience part for the spiritual gifts test: <https://glc.ccf.org.ph/wp-content/uploads/Workbooks/christian-living/holy-spirit/Book-3-The-Holy-Spirit-Session-3.pdf>

2. Setting It Right.

In your group, share what each of your spiritual gifts are. What can you do to make sure you use it for God's glory?

3. Living It Out.

Where do you need the most help? Consecrating your body, intellect, or gifts? How can you bless others with these?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE
IN ACTION

Pray for people who may be discerning God's call in their lives in this season. Pray that they would be sensitive to His leading for them and that they will consecrate themselves to honor Him. Take the opportunity to share Christ to them, that they may know Him, and discover what His will is for their lives.

WEEKLY
PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- For God's sovereignty to be on display over our upcoming national elections; godly, competent leaders to be voted into government posts at all levels.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.n

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 12:1-2

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