

Romans, pt.18, 4.1.07

Flowing In the Current of God's Will/Knowing God's Will

Romans 12.1-2

### Introduction

- Video
- Read text
- How can you get & stay in the flow of God's will? **I believe it's not that difficult to know God's will when you're in the flow of God's will.**
  - Jesus did His Father's will, b/c he was in the flow of his father's will (doing those things God had asked of him). A couple of difficult times...he had to press into God's will...the beginning of his earthly ministry & near the end of his earthly ministry...in both cases he knew God's will but he knew it would be difficult to accomplish. Other than that, Jesus stayed in the flow of his father's will
    - Appl - if you're always running around asking all the time, "what's God's will for my life?", you aren't living a healthy Christian life. You should remain in the flow of God's will so that when the Lord speaks you are able to quickly discern & follow his voice.
    - Appl - Difficult times come during the transition phases of life (child to teenager; teenager to young adult; single to married; part time to full time employment, etc.) & the times God redirects us.
    - Appreciated Linda's word about Peter returning fishing when he wasn't sure what to do...you do the last thing you knew to do
- My experience is that often times people struggle to know God's will is they aren't living in the flow of God's will.

In order to get into the flow of God's will, you must:

**GIVE YOURSELF COMPLETELY TO GOD - 12.1**

- Make yourself a living & holy sacrifice to God
  - Picture of an altar.
  - OT understanding: They offered sacrifices to God for a twofold reason: to receive the punishment for their sins (not necessary now b/c of the cross) and to give God the best of their herds & crops (still necessary). The offering had to be the first & best portions...w/o deformity...no remnants.
  - We are to give ourselves not partially but completely to God, b/c he deserves our best. Like the Highway video – he finally gave himself over to the current.
  - They didn't partially kill the offering (remove a leg) partially roast the offering (until it tasted good)...they killed the whole animal & they burned up the whole animal (not necessarily all on the altar)
    - My point is this – if you want to flow in the knowledge of God's will you must entirely & completely sacrifice yourself to God...you don't throw yourself on the altar of God & stay until it gets uncomfortable or just put a portion of yourself on the altar, i.e., God, I'll give you my talents, but I'm going to keep my opinions & critical spirit...that's like hacking up an offering throwing some on the altar & keeping the rest for yourself...like Eli's wicked sons in 1 Sam.2.
    - Appl – you need to make up your mind & jump on the altar & die. Quit playing games...like walking across hot coals, you're yipping & screaming & just need to fall fast down & die...You can either dive in completely to God or slowly & gradually submerge yourself. One way, you're uncomfortable for a short period of time & the other way, you're uncomfortable for a longer period of time.

- Uncontrollable Current video – he finally gave up & jumped into the river.
- Do you know why some Christians are so cantankerous, it's b/c they have one leg in the altar & the rest of their life is writhing in pain...you just need to make up your mind & once for all completely jump in the fire & die...Quit holding on to your pet sins, attitudes, opinions, etc...I'm diving in!

A couple of good reasons to give yourself completely to God:

- Consider all he's done for you (NIV: in view of God's mercy) :  
From Rom.3 – 11: we were foreknown, chose, predestined, justified & glorified; we have been adopted into God's family; we are co-heirs with Jesus; We are made right with God; we are at peace with God; we are dearly loved by God; we are friends with God; we have the HS as a foretaste of our future glory; we are being conformed into the image of Christ by the HS; Christ has not only forgiven my sin, but he's given me victory over sin; Christ has overcome death and has provided me a path over it; the HS teaches me to pray the Father's will; God is working out everything for our good; God is for me; nothing will separate me from his love; he keeps his promises; that if I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord & believe in my heart that God raised him from the dead I will be saved; he will save natural Israel!
  - In view of what God has done for you, give yourself as a living sacrifice to God...it's not like he's the neighbor who helped put your trimmed branches by the side of the road!
- This is the way you worship God! **Worship is giving myself completely to God.**
  - We worship when we give God our lives. We say, "Lord, this body is your body, time your time, mind your mind, money your money, gifts & talents your gifts & talents...everything...it's all yours!

- Do you know what I'm doing right now? Preaching, encouraging, but most importantly I'm worshipping...I'm taking the gifting the Lord has imparted and using it for his service.
- How does a student worship God...husband...employee...employer...
- LET'S GET IT STRAIGHT: WORSHIP IS ABOUT GIVING GOD OUR LIVES IN EVERYTHING WE DO !!!
- We gather on the first day of the week to give God the first part of our week, the first part of our wealth, rededicate ourselves to him, acknowledge his worth & lordship over our lives, & to grow in a closer relationship him & each other. We are worshipping, b/c we're giving ourselves to God, and come Monday morning you're still worshipping as you go off to school, work or about your day. Worship isn't about an event; worship is about an offering.
- Summary: If we want to get in the flow of God's will, the first thing we have to do is give ourselves completely to God!

### **DON'T FILL YOURSELF WITH THE WAYS OF THE WORLD – 12.2a**

- Contextually: The Roman culture was influencing the spiritual & moral climate of this church. Roman culture provided some good things – a level of tolerance for different religious expressions, infrastructure so the gospel could easily spread, it's citizens had a level of political protection, etc. Negatively, the Roman culture diluted the spiritual environment by trying to synchronize all religions, morally they tolerated & encouraged sinful behavior (sodomy, slavery, caste system, violent & explicit entertainment, etc.)
- “Don't copy – conform – the behavior and customs of this world” – this is a continual word...go on refusing to the world's ways...constantly be vigilant
- How much of the way you think, interact with people, deal with problems, handle money, perceive God, define success, do life is

- influenced by the world? Everything...some things to a lesser degree than others, but you can't help it.
- Short test: Read 12.9–21. These are the customs and behaviors of people who live in the Kingdom of God. Evaluate yourself & see if you do these things 90% of the time. If you want the real score ask your spouse, close friend to do it for you.
  - Illustration: Brian & Kara Migls pool filling up...like lime green cool aid...you can swim in it & drink it, but it just isn't right...it has to be filtered & an injection of chemicals that kills algae otherwise they have nothing but a mesquite breeding pond.
  - In our lives there are things that have to be filtered & cleaned – entertainment & media (more violent, sexually explicit, & dirty). We think the thrill...laugh is worth the hit, but is it? What would our thought life, relationships be like if we closely monitored & gravely limited the consumption of those things.
  - The current fast from media & its impact on relationships.
  - Appl – we will not flow in the knowledge of God's will, by cluttering our life with the things of the world.

### **LET GOD TRANSFORM YOUR THINKING – 12.2b**

- The way we are transformed is by having our minds changed by God. Repentance is a change of mind. The battle ground of our lives is 90% in our minds. Transforming my thinking will transform my life.
  - NIV – “renewing”; NLT – “transform”. Paul uses the same word that is used by Matthew & Mark to describe Jesus' transfiguration...the inner & outer person are changed. Likewise, God is continually changing our thinking!
- This isn't solely about education, but about operating with the mind of Christ. We have the mind of Christ (1 Cor.2.16).The mind of Christ is the Word of God & the moving of the HS upon our lives.
- Appl. How do you operate in the mind of Christ? You get full of the Word & full of the Spirit. You let the written Word permeate your mind into your spirit & you constantly lean upon the activity of the

- Spirit. You read & watch things that build you up & feed your Spirit & you give in to what the HS is doing inside of you.
- Flowing in the knowledge of God's will is easier when you have a hunger for God's Word and you're living in the fullness of the Spirit.
  - Where God is transforming my thinking
    - Character – you can't compromise in areas where there may be compromises...current key leaders...John Bisagno's list of 25 men...only 5 made it to the end of their ministry...most didn't b/c of moral failure...
    - Kingdom living – don't put up with anything less than the Kingdom of God; don't accept brokenness as normal
  - We get stuck in stinking thinking! Our thinking must change in order to stay in the flow of God's will...we have so many false beliefs & half truths that are circulating in our heads. It hampers our ability to stay in the flow of God's will.
    - I think what God wants our minds to be Like is a frontier fort – mobile, fresh, adaptable, adventurous, & open (the way we are when God is transforming our mind)...most start like that and then over time it can become like an impoverished inner city with all kinds of clutter, structures that need to be torn down and a haunt for all kinds of negative influences (when we allow the world to infect our thinking).
    - Our main objective is the restoration & healing of the body of Christ...as a church we've set aside 21 days of prayer & fasting for the restoration & healing of our church body...I hope this time has revealed some weaknesses that need to be strengthened & given you greater love for your family.
    - Preparing quickly means we don't hold onto old mindset or patterns of living...Ex.12, God told the Israelites to be prepared to quickly move when the word was given...letting God transform our thinking allows us to stay fresh, so when God tells us to move we aren't trying to load our 2000 sf house on a trailer, rather we can close up the pop up & move ahead quickly...we're in a season when God is saying, "You

better be ready...now is the time to be in the flow of God's will...don't you hold on to old mindsets, attitudes, unbiblical teachings...I'm shaking everything to the core.

- If you've been in the world & had old mindsets, it's a jolt to get back into the flow of God's will...it doesn't happen quickly or easily...things have to be undone & installed to lift you to a new level.
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Conclusion: then you will learn to know God's will

- Illustration: Potter & clay background
- You are able to enter into God's will when you've been in the flow of God's will by giving yourself completely to God, not allowing yourself to be conformed to the world & letting God transform your mind...when you've been living in the flow of God's will, you more easily adapt to changes God begins pressing into your life. You're on His wheel; flowing with his will.