

Finding and Following God's Plan for Your Life

Class 2 - Submitting to God's Plan

Psalms 37:5 NKJV “Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.”

1. Way is defined as road, distance, journey, manner, path, direction, habit, and course
2. We could read this verse without losing any of its meaning “**Commit the steps of your feet.** Walk the road less traveled. Go the distance. Commit to the journey the Lord has set before you. Let your manner and conduct reflect your decision to follow Him. Let your habits add to—not take away from—your true calling. **Commit to finishing the course.** Trust in the Lord. Put the full weight of your life, your obedience, and your confidence on His Word. Don’t step off the path He’s given you. And here’s the promise—**He will bring it to pass.** He will bring you to the destination. He will sustain you with His strength. He will nourish you when you are weak. He will quench your thirst with His Spirit. So the call is simple, but it’s not light— **Commit. Commit. Commit.**
 - a. **Philippians 1:6 NKJV** “being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;”

Romans 11:36 NKJV “For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

Romans 11:36 NLT “For out of him, the sustainer of everything, came everything, and now **everything finds fulfillment in him.** May all praise and honor be given to him forever! Amen!”

1. God is the source and **center** of all life. And all life comes from Him and all life is intended for His glory.
2. Our lives are intended to bring God Glory.

These verses are giving us a roadmap to finding and following God's will for your life.

Romans 12:1a NKJV “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,”

1. Beseech is an invitation, and the author is imploring us according to God’s mercy to make a decision. This is not being forced upon us. God is extending to us the choice to truly live for him and commit.

Romans 12:1b NKJV “that **you** present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

1. Notice that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. Why a “Living sacrifice”, because we are to die to our own plans and live for Jesus. This puts the ball in our court now, God never forced anyone to submit to him. He invites us to make that decision.
2. Many people will not submit to God's plan based on fear. They are fearful that God will ask of them something that they don’t want to do.

3. Lastly, the author indicates that this request is reasonable. God is not asking something extreme here.

Romans 12:2 NKJV "And do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewing** of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

1. **Conformed** - conform to the same pattern.
2. **Transformed** - to change, transfigure, transform. It is where we get the word metamorphosis, where a caterpillar turns into a butterfly.
3. **Renewing** - renovation.
 - a. The way we think must be reprogrammed, be renovated, completely changed. The world has programmed us to think a certain way, act a certain way, live a certain way.
4. Notice it says that **when you do these things**, offer yourself a living sacrifice, and you don't conform to the world, but you are transformed by renewing your mind, by the Word of God, **you will PROVE something**. God's good and acceptable and perfect will for your life.
 - a. As you **stay a living sacrifice, continue in the Word** of God, God will continue to unlock His plan for your life and you'll see new things.

Luke 14:16-18 NKJV "Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, '**I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it.** I ask you to have me excused.'"

1. I can't come, I'm busy. In other words, I have another plan for my life.

Luke 14:19 NKJV "And another said, '**I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them.** I ask you to have me excused.'"

1. I gotta work, I can't follow God. I don't have time for this, I'm just too busy at work.

Luke 14:20 NKJV "Still another said, '**I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.**'"

1. Too often spouses can hinder each other in their walk with God because one is hungry and wants to follow God, the other could care less.

Luke 14:21 NKJV "So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.'"

1. Notice the master was angry.
2. **God will use anyone that comes to the table. That includes you! Anyone who is willing to be a living sacrifice** and be used by God.

Luke 14:26-27 NKJV "If anyone comes to Me and does not **hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.** And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

1. The word translated "hate" here is probably not the best translation. The word means to "love less". Matthew 10:37-38 records this other account using the phrase to love less.
2. This shows us the order of what our priorities should be. **Family is not first. God is first.**
3. Nothing and no person is more important than following God. People in your life should be supporting you in following God's plan.

Luke 14:28-30 NKJV "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it-lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'?"

1. There is a cost to offering yourself a living sacrifice. But it pays more than it costs.