

Outline

****Introduction: The GPS of Faith****

- The universal question believers wrestle with: "What is God's will for my life?"
- We ask it during major life decisions and transitions
- We want a complete roadmap, but God operates like a GPS — giving us the next immediate step
- Proverbs 3:5-6: God directs our paths when we trust Him fully rather than relying on our own understanding
- Psalm 119:105: God's word illuminates only the very next step, not the entire road ahead
- We treat God's will like a cosmic game of hide-and-seek, leading to paralysis
- Key question: What if God's will is not a destination to find but a transformation to undergo?
- Romans 12:1-2: The foundational passage for understanding God's will

- **Point 1: It Starts With Mercy**

- Romans 12:1a — Paul begins with "in view of God's mercy," not with rules or a career guide
- "Therefore" points back to eleven chapters of gospel truth in Romans
- Two contrasting workers: the anxious employee under a volatile boss vs. the secure child in a family business
- Core truth: You cannot know God's will for your future until you rest in God's mercy for your present
- Ephesians 2:4-5: God's great love made us alive even when we were spiritually dead
- Lamentations 3:22-23: God's compassions are new every morning
- Viewing God through mercy changes our posture from fearful performance to secure obedience

- We are not trying to earn His approval through our choices; we already have His approval in Christ

- ****Point 2: The Condition for God's Will — The Living Sacrifice****

- Romans 12:1b — Paul calls us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice
- A sacrifice in the first-century context meant something entirely given over to God
- The problem with a living sacrifice: it keeps wanting to crawl off the altar
- The smartphone factory reset illustration: we often give God partial control while keeping key areas locked away
- Discovering God's will requires total surrender of our everyday lives
- Luke 9:23: Jesus calls His disciples to daily self-denial and cross-bearing
- Galatians 2:20: Paul models a life fully crucified and surrendered to Christ
- Trust precedes clarity — God does not show the whole map before we commit to the journey

- ****Point 3: The Catalyst for God's Will — De-Programming and Re-Programming****

- Romans 12:2a — Two commands: do not conform, but be transformed
- "Conform" in Greek carries the idea of being poured into a mold
- The used computer illustration: old software must be uninstalled before new purposes can be fulfilled
- The world's mold defines success through wealth, status, performance, and self-promotion
- "Transformed" is the Greek word metamorphoo — an inside-out change, like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly

- Transformation happens by renewing the mind through Scripture
- Colossians 3:2: Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things
- When the mind is renewed, desires align with God's desires
- Philippians 4:8: The renewed mind focuses on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable

- ****Point 4: The Ultimate Test — Moving From Hidden to Revealed****
 - Romans 12:2b — Clarity comes after transformation, not before
 - God's will is not a hidden treasure map; it is a compass
 - The track coach illustration: the coach's will is expressed in how the athlete runs, not in what they eat for lunch
 - Micah 6:8: God has already shown us what is good — act justly, love mercy, walk humbly
 - What we do not have to guess about:
 - It is God's will to act with honesty and integrity in the workplace
 - It is God's will to love neighbors and look out for the vulnerable
 - It is God's will to live with gratitude
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: Rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks in all circumstances is explicitly stated as God's will
 - When living in obedience to what Scripture clearly commands, we find ourselves where God wants us to be

- ****Conclusion: Trust the Shepherd****
 - God is not trying to trick us or keep His will hidden so we will fail

- God's will is a day-by-day, moment-by-moment relationship with Him
- God makes it simple; we make it complex
- The hiking guide illustration: tourists follow the guide's bright backpack one step at a time through fog
- Jesus is our guide through the foggy terrain of the future
- Psalm 23:3: God guides us along the right paths — He does the heavy lifting
- Isaiah 30:21: God's voice directs us whether we turn right or left
- Philippians 1:6: God who began a good work in us will carry it to completion
- Stop stressing over the destination; focus on the transformation
- Offer your life as a living sacrifice, let God renew your mind, and trust Him to direct your path