

EXPERIENCING (Not Just Finding) GOD'S WILL

THE PASSAGE

Romans 12:1-2

DEFINING TERMS

Three Important Questions

- (1) What does it mean to be a **LIVING SACRIFICE**?

Matthew 16:25/ Galatians 2:20/ Colossians 3:17/ John 15:4-5

- (2) What does it mean to be **CONFORMED TO THE**

PATTERN OF THIS WORLD? 2 Corinthians 4:4/

Ephesians 2:1-3/ Colossians 1:13-14/ 1 Peter 1:14-15/ Matthew 19:12 & Matthew 16:25

- (3) What does it mean to **RENEW OUR MIND**?

Romans 12:2/ John 8:31-32/ Romans 8:6/ Psalm 119:11/ Proverbs 2:3-8

CHANGED FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Our Part of the Process

- (1) It starts with a **DECISION** to give God **PERMISSION**.

Romans 12:2/ Proverbs 1:28-33

- (2) **INPUT** always determines **OUTPUT**.

Proverbs 13:20/ 1 Corinthians 15:33

- (3) **FLEE** what's harmful, **FEED** what's helpful.

Psalm 1:1/ 2 Timothy 2:22

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 14, 2017

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY STORY

1. When we start talking about "experiencing God's will," there can be a variety of impressions and responses. How would you rate, from 1-5 with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, the following words as your personal descriptors of what it's like to experience God's will?

- ⇒ ___ Challenging
- ⇒ ___ Freeing
- ⇒ ___ Frightening
- ⇒ ___ Confusing
- ⇒ ___ Fulfilling
- ⇒ ___ Other

2. Larry closed the message this weekend by talking about the value of building biblical fences/personal legalisms that can help us avoid conforming to the world. Can you think of any fences you have added to your life that have helped you? If so, explain.

Are there any you need to be careful of projecting onto others?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The great news as followers of Jesus is that God is at work in our lives, engaged with us, wanting to help us and do whatever is best for us. Yet praying the prayer of permission, as Larry talked about this week, could be a challenge and even frightening to do. What positive motivations to pray this prayer catch your attention the most in Psalm 34:8-10?

Psalm 34:8-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

⁹ Fear the LORD, you his holy people,
for those who fear him lack nothing.

¹⁰ The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Have you ever prayed the prayer of permission? If so, what happened?

2. We usually conform to the ways of the world because the payoff seems worth making! Unfortunately, it's also often the last step in a series of bad choices. Read Genesis 3:1-13 and identify both the strategy of the serpent and the steps that led to Adam and Eve's sin. What lessons can you learn from their experience of temptation and conforming to their own desires (even in a perfect environment)?

Genesis 3:1-13 *New International Version (NIV)*

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

3. In last week’s Growth Group homework we looked at questions to ask when reading passages of Scripture. We’d like you to do the same this week and then see how it relates to this week’s teaching and study. Read Ephesians 4:17-24 and answer the following questions.

Ephesians 4:17-24 *New International Version (NIV)*

Instructions for Christian Living

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

1. What is this passage about?

- 1) What don't you understand or have questions about?
- 2) What does this passage tell us about people and how to treat them?
- 3) How could this passage change how we live?
- 4) What principle or word from this passage would you like to continue to think about?

TAKING IT HOME

For this section we recommend dividing into men only/women only groups. Larry pointed out this weekend that although the Spirit changes us from the inside out, we do have to do our part in staying connected and living a renewed life following Jesus. Which one of the three parts of the process that Larry mentioned under "Changed From The Inside Out" is the most important for you to pay attention to right now?

Is there anything you need to pray for when it comes to ...

... what you watch?

...who you hang with?

... who you seek to impress?

Praise/Prayer Requests:

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