

Romans 12:1-2 Conformed Or Transformed?

Memory Verse

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² 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.

Revision and Introduction

A quick way of summarising Romans 9-11 is as follows:

1. The gentiles were disobedient, but God chose to show mercy to them by using them to be His light and witness to the world, and in doing so is bringing many of them to faith in Him
2. Israel has been disobedient, but God will show mercy to them again by again using them to be His light and witness to the world, and in doing so will bring many of them to faith in Him when He returns
3. Therefore, God is good and worthy of praise, because although both Jews and gentiles have both been disobedient to God, and are therefore undeserving of salvation, God shows mercy to both—God is both good and fair

Romans 11:30-32 NKJV

For as you [the gentiles] were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their [Israel's] disobedience, ³¹ even so these [Israel] also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you [the gentiles] they [the Israelites] also may obtain mercy. ³² For God has committed them all [Jews and Gentiles] to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all [Jews and gentiles].

In fact, Paul in the first 11 chapters of Romans has been expounding (present and explain in detail) to us the gospel: we are sinners, we are not righteous, we can not make ourselves righteous, and we are not deserving of God's mercy. But God, who is rich in mercy, made a way for us to come back to Him by Himself becoming the payment for our sin—it was the only way that God could punish sin, but not punish the sinner.

Romans 3:21-28 NLT

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

²⁷ Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. ²⁸ So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

Now, in view of God's incredible mercy towards us, what should our attitude and response be towards God?

"Almost invariably, Paul began his Epistles dealing with the position we have as believers. That is, he addressed doctrine before he dealt with duty. Sad to say, such is not the case all too often in the church today. The result? A legalistic guilt trip that is very foreign to the nature and message of Jesus Christ. When, however, the concepts of doctrine precede the call to duty, we understand that the work is done, that we are righteous in Christ, and that there is nothing more to do to get close to the Lord, or to enjoy the blessing of the Lord. The result? We find ourselves saying, "Far out! Lord, in light of what You did for me, I want to serve You." And that is why, after spending eleven chapters talking about man's ruined condition and God's rich salvation, in chapter 12, Paul begins to encourage us to start serving Him." (Jon Courson)

"In all of his letters, Paul concluded with a list of practical duties that were based on the doctrines he had discussed. In the Christian life, doctrine and duty always go together. What we believe helps to determine how we behave. It is not enough for us to understand Paul's doctrinal explanations. We must translate our *learning* into *living* and show by our daily lives that we trust God's Word." (Warren W. Wiersbe)

Outline for Romans 12:1-2

1. By the mercies of God (v 1a)
2. Choosing to present myself to God as a living sacrifice (v 1b)
3. Conformed to the world or transformed into the image of Christ by the renewing of my mind (v 2a)
4. The proof of a renewed mind—a changed life (v 2b)

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

I beseech [urge] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² 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.

Romans 12:1-2 J.B. Phillips translation

With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give Him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable by Him. ² Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the Plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.

Romans 12:1-2 NLT

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 AMP

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

² Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

1. By the mercies of God

Romans 12:1a NKJV

I beseech [urge] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice.

v 1 I beseech [urge, exhort, encourage] you: Just like responding to God's invitation to receive His free gift of salvation is a free choice, so is God's invitation to walk in fellowship with Him once we are saved. Love must be a free choice, or else we would be robots. We are always as close to God as we chose to be—"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8a). God appeals to our will; we must choose which desires we will follow or satisfy, and which desires we will put to death. "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives" (Galatians 5:24-25 NLT).

v 1 **Therefore brethren:** The **therefore** is important. Paul is saying that in light of everything that he has said in the first part of the epistle (chapters 1-11), we should be motivated to live a life that pleases God, a life that is surrendered to Him. Simply put, *since God has freely given and sacrificed so much for me, what am I willing to freely give to and sacrifice for Him?* If I truly understand and am grateful for all that God has done for me (as described in chapters 1-11), then I will seek to do what pleases Him, which means giving up my own ways and my own desires, and living according to God's ways and His desires as described in chapters 12-16. This same pattern is also used in the other epistles. They start by telling us what God has done for us, then finish by showing us how we can show gratitude to God by thinking, speaking, and living His way.

v1 **By the mercies of God:** **By** is an important word to understand. Here it is used as a preposition, and as such it identifies the agent who performs the action. It's only **by**, (because of or through), **the mercies of God**, that the Christian has the ability to will or desire to do what God wants, and then also have the power or ability to actually do it.

Paul says that same thing but in different ways in different epistles:

- Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. (Philippians 2:12b-13 NLT)
- Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. ³ How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? (Galatians 3:2-3 NLT)

In summary, **By the mercies of God** means that what Paul will tell us that we should do, or be like, is only possible by the underserved power of God working in and through us. Remember that God's commands are also God's promises: If God has given us a command, then it is guaranteed that God will also give us the desire and power to fulfil that command—all we have to do is humbly ask for God's help, remembering that without Christ we can do nothing (see John 15:5)!

Application: It is a privilege to walk in fellowship with God and experience His wonderful love, joy, power, comfort, and righteousness in our lives—let us never take for granted this precious opportunity to walk in fellowship with God and experience intimacy with the One who is love. Let us fear that we fail to enter into God's rest, and so miss out on resting in God's power and love as we walk by faith (see Hebrews 4:1-11).

“Whereas the heathen are prone to sacrifice in order to obtain mercy, biblical faith teaches that the divine mercy provides the basis of sacrifice as the fitting response.” (Harrison)

2. Choosing to present myself to God as a living sacrifice

Now, in light of God's great mercy and grace towards us, what does Paul strongly encourage believers to do?

Romans 12:1b

That you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service:

v 1 **Present your bodies:** This means all of us, body, mind, soul, and spirit (as verse two makes clear). Obviously, I can't sacrifice my bodily desires and appetites without my soul, mind, will, and spirit being a part of the decision.

“**Present your bodies** means that God wants *you*, not just your work. You may do all kinds of work for God, but never give Him your *self*.” (David Guzik)

v 1 **A living sacrifice:** Remember that as believers we are kings and priest to our God (see also Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 20:6).

1 Peter 2:5, 9-10 NKJV

You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, **a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...**

⁹ But you are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

v 1 **That you present your bodies a living sacrifice:** As a priest we must have something to offer, and the only thing that we have to offer at God's altar (aside from our praise, see Hebrews 13:15), is... *ourselves*. Why would God want us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice? David Guzik says it well:

“The previous appeal to the will (**I beseech you**) means that the will is to be the master over the body. The thinking of our age says that our body must tell the will what to do; but the Bible says that our will must bring the body as a living sacrifice to God. The body is a wonderful servant, but a terrible master. Keeping it at God's altar as a living sacrifice keeps the body where it should be.” (David Guzik)

There are only two options, I can choose to live according to my sinful human nature and let my bodily desires and appetites rule my life—I will live for pleasure, I will do what feels good right now. Or, I can live by the power of the Spirit and be in control of my bodily appetites and desires, practice delayed gratification, and so live for the glory of God.

Romans 8:5-6, 12-13 NLT

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

v 1 **Your bodies:** Also remember what Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 concerning our bodies: “Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. ¹⁹ Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honour God with your body” (NLT).

v 1 **A living sacrifice:** Consider how Paul’s first century audience would have received this—they all knew what sacrifice meant—it meant that something or someone would have to *die*, and *dying* is never a pleasant experience. An altar is a place of *death*. However, this is **a living sacrifice** because it is brought alive to the altar, and it stays alive at the altar, it continues on being sacrificed. So for the first century audience, they would have readily got the picture that if they were to continue to experience the abundant life of love and joy in the Lord (see John 10:10, 15:7-11), then they would have to continue to experience the excruciating pain of daily putting their bodily appetites and desires to death—they would have to die to self every day. What does dying to self look like?

Colossians 3:5 NLT

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

1 Corinthians 9:27 NLT

I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 15:31 AMP

[I assure you] by the pride which I have in you in [your fellowship and union with] Christ Jesus our Lord, that I die daily [I face death every day and die to self].

Luke 9:23 AMP

And [Jesus] said to all, If any person wills to come after Me, let him deny himself [disown himself, forget, lose sight of himself and his own interests, refuse and give up himself] and take up his cross daily and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also].

James 5:8-11 AMP

So you also must be patient. Establish your hearts [strengthen and confirm them in the final certainty], for the coming of the Lord is very near.

⁹ Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you [yourselves] may not be judged. Look! The Judge is [already] standing at the very door.

¹⁰ [As] an example of suffering and ill-treatment together with patience, brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord [as His messengers].

¹¹ You know how we call those blessed (happy) who were steadfast [who endured]. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the Lord's [purpose and how He richly blessed him in the] end, inasmuch as the Lord is full of pity and compassion and tenderness and mercy. [Job 1:21, 22; 42:10; Ps. 111:4.]

No one ever said that living the Christian life is easy. Dying to self hurts. However, consider that something is always dying or getting weaker, and something is growing stronger and being renewed: Either my fellowship with God is broken as I make myself a friend of the world, or I die to the world and experience fellowship with God.

James 4:4 NLT—*James talking to believers*

You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

John 7:7 NKJV—*Jesus speaking to His unbelieving brothers*

The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.

John 15:18-19 NKJV—*Jesus talking to the disciples*

If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NLT—*Paul speaking to the immature Christians at Corinth*

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual [mature] people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. ² I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, ³ for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?

So it's not really a choice of whether or not I'm going to die, but rather who or what will I die to—will I die to self, sacrificing worldly pleasures, and so enjoy fellowship with God, or, will I sacrifice my fellowship with God so I can enjoy the passing pleasures of sin?

What kind of sacrifice will God accept?

v 1 **Holy, acceptable to God:** God is a holy God, so what we offer Him must be holy, pure, and without blemish or defect. Consider the following Scriptures.

- *He shall bring a male without blemish* (Leviticus 1:10 NKJV)
- *But if there is a defect in it, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you shall not sacrifice it to the Lord your God* (Deuteronomy 15:21 NKJV)

Therefore, what we offer to God must be pure in action, word, speech, and motive. Anything less will not be accepted by God.

The burnt offering—a picture of complete dedication and consecration to God

The burnt offering in the Old Testament was not for sin, but rather a picture or symbol of complete dedication to God. The whole offering was burned up, again as a picture of complete dedication, consecration, and commitment to God. God wants all of us. Nothing less will do. The life of a believer should be “all in”, with nothing held back.

“The holiness we bring to the altar is a *decision* for holiness, and *yielding* to the work of holiness in our life. As we present our bodies a living sacrifice, God makes our life holy by burning away impurities.” (David Guzik)

Someone wisely said, “Salvation is free, but it will cost you everything.” This is why Jesus warned people that they must count the cost before they commit to Him, because “whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.” (see Luke 14:25-33).

To whom much is given, much is required

v 1 **Reasonable service:** God is definitely asking a lot of us as believers—a life of continual sacrifice and dying. But is He justified or fair in doing so? To answer this question, lets quickly remind ourselves of the amazing blessings that God has lavished on us at great sacrifice and cost to Himself, before we look at what God wants us to do for Him and say that it's all too hard. David Guzik has a list of all the ways that God has blessed us that Paul has explained to us thus far:

- Justification from the guilt and penalty of sin
- Adoption in Jesus and identification with Christ
- Placed under grace, not law
- Giving the Holy Spirit to live within
- Promise of help in all affliction
- Assurance of a standing in God's election
- Confidence of coming glory
- Confidence of no separation from the love of God
- Confidence in God's continued faithfulness

Even a blind man can see that what God has first given us is so much more than the little that we can ever give back to Him. Truly, much has been given to us, so much is required of us. This is a biblical principle that Jesus described in Luke 12:48. Therefore, it is reasonable or logical or rational or intelligent—it makes sense that if Someone has first given us so much, that the right and natural thing to do is to at least show a little gratitude by giving something back in return—our lives. **Jesus was willing to sacrifice His life for me: Am I willing to sacrifice my life for Him?**

Reasonable (*logikos*) service: a life of worship according to God's Word

Looking at how the ancient Greek word (*logikos*) translated as “reasonable” in Romans 12:1 is translated in another passage is very enlightening.

1 Peter 2:2 NKJV

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk **of the word (*logikos*)**, that you may grow thereby.

So we can say that “**reasonable service** is a life of worship according to God's Word.” (David Guzik) This concept will be developed further in verse 2.

3. Conformed to the world or transformed into the image of Christ by the renewing of my mind

Romans 12:2a NKJV

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2a NLT

Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Romans 12:2a J. B. Phillips translation

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God remould your minds from within

v 2 **Do not be conformed to this world:** The ancient Greek word translated as “**be conformed to**” means to: “remodel, model after, shape one’s behaviour, and take on the form of something. Peter writes something very similar to Paul in one of his letters.

1 Peter 1:13-16 NLT

So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴ So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t **slip back [be conformed] into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires**. You didn’t know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy.”

Notice the similarities between what Paul and Peter wrote. We only have two options:

1. We either do nothing and let the world conform us into it’s mold, like a dead fish in a river floating down stream, or,
2. We fight or resist the natural tendency to want to be like the world, and instead look to the Scriptures and the Spirit of God to renew our mind and clean up the trash (sinful thoughts, attitudes, and ways of thinking) that has accumulated in our minds.

v 2 **This world:** **This world** refers to the world system, the values, popular culture, music, movies, books, magazines, podcasts, games, videos, and ways of thinking that are in rebellion against God. Satan is expert at using these things to appeal to our sinful human nature—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—which is why it is so hard to resist. However, we must realise and understand that Satan’s gifts are not good gifts—Satan only seeks to kill, steal, and destroy (see John 10:10)

v 2 **But be transformed by the renewing of your mind:** This is the exact opposite of being **conformed to this world**. The mind is the battleground, the place where the fight for influence happens in the believer. The **world** system wants us to think like it does, and God wants us to think like Him. *Christians must learn to stop thinking like the **world**, and start thinking like God thinks more and more—God’s desires must become our desires—this is the only way to real holiness.*

v 2 **Transformed** is the ancient Greek word *metamorphoo*, from which we get our english word metamorphosis—like the ugly caterpillar **transforms** or metamorphoses into a beautiful butterfly, so God wants to transform our thinking from being sinful and ugly, to being godly and beautiful. This transformation will only happen as the believer spends time in the presence of God studying the word of God. We must make the time to get away from the distractions of the world and spend increasing amounts of time alone with God, and also not neglect fellowshiping with other believers.

2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Application: Am I a conformer or a transformer?

“Every one of us is in one of two categories: Either we’re conformers or transformers. Right now you’re either trying to figure out what she’s wearing, what he’s driving, or how you can fit in and be cool—or, like J. B. Phillips, you’re saying, “I don’t care what the world is doing. I’m not going to let it squeeze me into its mold.”

Are you a thermometer—adjusting to the temperature of the culture, or are you a thermostat—changing the climate of the culture? If you are a conformer, a thermometer, you’re in for perpetual frustration because by the time you take the temperature and figure out what’s hot, by the time you change your look, or buy the car, or redo your house—the world will have moved on, leaving you out of style. Truly, this is a great mystery to a lot of Christians. They try to make their ministries relatable by analysing what the world is doing in order to emulate it. But by the time they figure it out and implement it, the world has moved on. That’s why Christians are known for being out of style.

What’s the key? Don’t be a thermometer. Be a thermostat. Don’t be a conformer. Be a transformer. Say, “I’m in a whole different place than you are, world. I’m living for eternity. I’m preparing for heaven.”” (Jon Courson)

Two traps to avoid in the renewing of your mind

1. The Christian who is only concerned about how things make them feel

There are many believers in today’s church who live by feelings. They are chasing nice lovey-dovey feelings which they interpret as being in fellowship with God, or experiencing the love of God. When they “feel loved” then they think that everything is good, that they are walking in fellowship with God. However, when they don’t “feel loved” then they think that something is wrong, that God is angry with them because they are not good enough or don’t have enough faith. This is a dangerous and debilitating way of thinking that reduces truth to only a feeling. It is really nothing more than the world’s way of thinking, where, if it feels good, do it.

“The life based on *feeling* says, “How do I feel today? How do I feel about my job? How do I feel about my wife? How do I feel about worship? How do I feel about the preacher?” *This life by feeling will never know the transforming power of God*, because it ignores the **renewing of the mind**.” (David Guzik)

The problem with this kind of thinking is that God never promises that we will feel good all the time. We are promised that as believers we will experience suffering and tribulation—Jesus Himself was “despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3a NKJV), even though He experienced a perfect love relationship with the Father.

This “feel good” or “walking by sight and not by faith” thinking leads to two errors. Firstly, a man may think that he is walking in obedience to God, believing that God is pleased with Him, but the opposite may be the case—he may be just pleased or happy with his own human achievements, or enjoying the “passing pleasures of sin” (see Hebrews 11:25). Secondly, when a man doesn’t “feel the love”, he may think that he has done something wrong, that he isn’t good enough, that he doesn’t have enough faith, or that God has abandoned him, when in fact God is pleased with Him (consider the life of Job, one of the ultimate examples of living by faith or truth, and not by sight or feelings). Remember that our emotions naturally cycle—it is impossible to maintain an “euphoric God high” for a long period of time. If a man uses how he feels about something to determine if it is true or good, then he will be a slave to his ever changing and deceptive emotions.

2. The Christian who is only concerned about what he must do

“The life based on *doing* says, “Don’t give me your theology. Just tell me what to *do*. Give me the four points for this and the seven keys for that.” *This life of doing will never know the transforming power of God*, because it ignores the **renewing of the mind.**” (David Guzik)

This man thinks, as long as I am doing the right thing, then I must be right with God. This is pharisaical or legalistic thinking and is dangerous because it ignores the condition of the heart. There are many who justify their cold and selfish heart towards God by what they do, or their hearts deceive them into thinking that they are walking in fellowship with God simply because they are, in general, living a moral life. They are checkbox Christians—if they can tick off all the right boxes, if they can just do all the right things on their “God to do list”, then they think that they are in fellowship with God.

The solution to both of these traps is for the Christian to build his life on the truth found in the Word of God. “God is never against the principles of feeling and doing. He is a God of powerful and passionate feeling and He commands us to be doers. Yet feelings and doing are completely insufficient *foundations* for the Christian life. The first questions cannot be “How do I feel?” or “What do I do?” Rather, they must be “What is true here? What does God’s Word say?”” (David Guzik)

4. The proof of a renewed mind—a changed life

Romans 12:2b NKJV

That you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

v 2 **Prove:** How do we know if we are being transformed on the inside? There will be a change on the outside also. Others will see us living **that good and acceptable and perfect will of God**—the change in how we live, our speech, our attitude, and how we think will be outward **proof** of the continuing inward renewing and transforming of our minds.

Summary, conclusion, and application: How to live out the will of God

1. **By the mercies of God:** Be motivated to love God because of what He has done for us, and remember that any change is only by His power
2. **Present your bodies a living sacrifice:** “As an act of intelligent worship, decide to yield your entire self to Him” (David Guzik)
3. **Do not be conformed to this world:** Resist being conformed to the ways, attitudes, and thinking of this world system
4. **Be transformed by the renewing of your mind:** Learn to meditate on God’s word and spend more and more time alone with God and in fellowship with other believers
5. **Prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God:** A changed way of life, attitude, and thinking is the evidence of a mind in the process of being renewed