

GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES REPORT

"A Passion for Souls"

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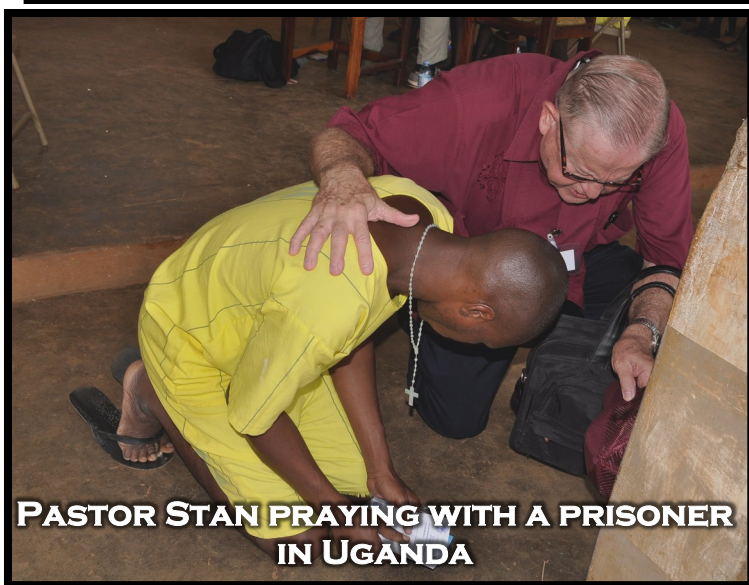


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**PASTOR STAN PRAYING WITH A PRISONER
IN UGANDA**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Dear Beloved GIMI Team Members,

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you precious people who continue to pray for and support GIMI. I trust that you are well and very busy during this Thanksgiving Season telling people about Jesus. As for Jo Anne and me, we are continuing to move forward with this great work and ministry even with so many trials and difficulties. We are truly thanking our wonderful Lord for His abundant blessings during this year. We constantly thank Him for each one of you who have been such wonderful team members, helping us to sow the seeds and reap a mighty harvest of souls in Africa, the Ukraine and here in America. Truly, God has blessed the tremendous efforts of our national workers in all of our countries, and He has given us a wonderful harvest of souls this year.

During the months from January through September

of this year, GIMI has shared the Gospel message with over 600,000 people with 77,428 of these praying to receive Christ in first time decisions. We are just praising our marvelous Savior for this harvest, and we are offering much thanksgiving for our national preachers and workers who are so faithful to tell the old, old story of our Lord's death, burial, and resurrection! Now before you "naysayers" start casting doubt, let me say, as I always do, that we don't believe all of these people actually got saved, but many of them did, and they have changed lives and testimonies to confirm it. By the way, the greatest mission field in the world today is on the membership rolls of our evangelical churches where so many professing believers are genuinely lost. In fact, I believe this should be a priority in our evangelism and mission efforts. We need to go after the lost church members who have just enough religion to make them miserable, but they are not saved!

AN UPDATE ON SOME HEALTH ISSUES!

I am writing this newsletter article on October 13th, and while I am here in my office working, our dear son-in-law, Pastor Mike McKinney, is seriously ill in Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem, NC. Brother Mike is our daughter Rebecca's husband, one of our GIMI Board Members, and also, my Associate Pastor at Gateway International Baptist Church. Pastor Mike spent almost the entire day yesterday in serious surgery at Baptist due to a previous surgery he had 18 months ago by a very incompetent surgeon in Hickory, North Carolina. Many of you probably remember that in May of 2016, pastor Mike was operated on for a terrible hiatal hernia. The doctor that did that surgery messed up everything and

Pastor Mike spent 22 days in the hospital at that time. For the past 18 months, he has not been able to eat solid foods, and he has endured horrible pain and daily bouts with not being able to breathe properly. Thus, a corrective surgery was done yesterday by a tremendous specialist. He told Rebecca, this was the worst surgery he ever had to perform. Brother Mike will now have to wear a feeding tube for about three months and two other drainage tubes for quite sometime.

So folks, I beg you to pray every day for Pastor Mike and Rebecca during this horrible ordeal. Pray that he will be well enough to be back carrying on his ministry very soon. Pray also for the first surgeon who about killed brother Mike and hasn't had enough integrity to admit the terrible job that he did. Pray that God might convict him of this tragic deed. Pastor Mike may have to live a life of pain and suffering for the rest of his life because of the mistake the first surgeon made. And, based upon what the specialist surgeon said yesterday, the first doctor probably ran into a problem, panicked, and didn't complete the surgery properly. So very often, doctors never will confess to any wrong, but we all know that good people do fail and make mistakes which others have to bear as the result.

Please Keep Praying For Brother Al Morgan!

I also want to ask all of you dear GIMI team members to really pray for another one of our GIMI Board members, Brother Al Morgan, who over the past few months has undergone a complete hip replacement, and just this week, a complete knee replacement. Please pray for Brother Al and his wife, Linda, during their time of difficulty due to these two surgeries. They are precious people and great members of our team, and we covet your prayers on their behalf. By the way, Al and Linda live in Princeton, West Virginia where Al has been a college professor and Linda has been a teacher for a very long time. Pray that God will give Brother Al the complete use of his hip and knee very soon.

Al and Linda, we love you very much, and we thank God for what you mean to this ministry and to us as our friends.

I Beg You To Pray For Pastor Odell Daughtry!

Some of you team members know that one of my best friends in the entire world is Pastor Odell Daughtry. He pastors North Bay Fellowship in Ingleside, Texas. Pastor Odell and I have been friends and worked together since way back in the 1980's. I have preached numbers of revivals for him and his churches. His present church has been one of the strongest supporting churches GIMI has ever had. Also, I had the

honor of conducting the funeral of his first wife, Patsy, many years ago, in which 17 people got saved. Later, Pastor Odell married his present wife Linda, and he and she have just been precious to Jo Anne and me.

All of you know about the terrible Hurricane Harvey that hit Texas. That storm came ashore just a few miles from where the Daughtry's live. In fact, just a couple days before the storm came in at Rockport, Texas, Pastor Odell was in a Rehab home in Rockport trying to recover from recent heart problems. He had to be evacuated 100 miles north of where they live. Due to so much damage to the North Bay Church, Pastor Daughtry's house, and other serious damage, Odell and Linda have not been able to return to their home. This wonderful pastor is still battling many serious health problems. Please, please remember to pray for Odell and Linda and for the many precious people at North Bay Church. Their communities were turned into war zones, and they are still trying to recover. Jo Anne and I are praying that our dear pastor friend will have his health restored, and that he and Linda will soon be able to return to their home.

Brother Odell, don't you give up! We need you desperately to help us win people to Jesus!

Well, Don't Forget This Old Preacher!

I have shared two personal requests for your prayers. Now, let me mention one more before moving on. I would very much appreciate your prayers for me personally. I have been having a very difficult time physically because of my heart problems and diabetes. Just last week, I had to have my fifth heart catheterization, but thank God, the cardiologist didn't find any more blockages. However, he also didn't find out where my terrible chest and arm pain is coming from. In addition to that, due to my constant battle with diabetes, I am losing much of the feeling in my feet. This is causing some tremendous concern and problems with walking. Just pray that God will restore my health so that I can keep working with my dear wife trying to direct this wonderful ministry. I am old, but I am not going to stop until I can't move or preach any more. So, just pray that God might heal my problems if it is His will, and also, that He will keep giving me strength to continue to preach, teach, write, and proclaim the Gospel message. I truly want to complete the race I started 52 years ago.



WE HAVE HAD TO CANCEL THE ZAMBIA CRUSADE!

Because of my deteriorating health conditions, Jo Anne and I spent a lot of hours praying about what to do concerning the planned crusade for April 2018 and the preparatory trip which we were planning to make this month of November. We have decided not to push the matter too far, so we have canceled this Fall's trip and also the crusade next Spring. We have made this decision with much sadness, but with much peace because we know that God is sovereign and doesn't make any mistakes. Sometimes God tries us just to see if we would be willing to "get out of our boxes" and move by faith to walk through "open doors". I feel completely at peace about this decision because there was a time in the past when I had a DVT blood clot in my leg on a plane to Kenya. I ended up flat on my back in Uganda for eight days, taking heparin blood thinner shots in my stomach before I could get on a plane and fly back to America. I just did not want this to happen again with possible heart problems, and so we just decided to put everything on hold until we can see if my health might improve. Just help us pray for God's will about this trip for the future. We have graciously apologized to the Zambian pastors who were looking forward, with expectancy, to our arrival there. We are truly sorry, but we know God is indeed in control!

THE CHRISTMAS COW PROJECT IS MOVING FORWARD!

I want to personally thank those of you who have already given to our Christmas Cow Project 2017 for the prisoners in Uganda, but we have a very long way to go. We have had about \$3,000 to come in so far, but if we are able to purchase 40 cows this year, we are going to need a total of \$10,000 total for this project. Therefore, we still need to raise \$7,000 so that these precious Ugandan prisoners, both men and women, plus some prison kids, will have meat on Christmas Day. Jo Anne and I have been doing this project for the past 32 years since we started working in Uganda. We are very excited about doing so again this year. Please remember that when we serve stew beef, rice, beans, bread, and some kind of desert, we always share the Gospel message so that many prisoners can come to Christ. So, please consider helping us make this the best Christmas these dear inmates may have ever had. I am truly confident that God will bless you if you help us provide this much

needed food for these greatly neglected people on Christmas Day. Again, thanks for what you have already given and for those of you who may still help us reach our goal of \$10,000 for the purchase of 40 cows. Just remember, it will not be long until Christmas, and we need your help soon!



**Prison Officers and Prison Children with
A GIMI Christmas Cow 2016**



**Prisoners Dressing
A GIMI Christmas Cow Last Year**



OUR GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL BIBLE COLLEGE WILL RESUME CLASSES JANUARY 4, 2018



Many of you, our dear GIMI friends, know that due to my health problems getting worse after having planned the crusade in Zambia, I decided to discontinue the Gateway International Bible College courses until further notice. Well, due to so many external students asking us to continue on with the courses, and because of the necessary cancellation of the Zambia Crusade, we are resuming our Gateway International Bible College external courses immediately! We will resume the Thursday night classes here at our main facilities on Thursday evening, January 4, 2018. Our plans are to just pick up where we left off with our campus studies, and then we will offer many new courses.

Because of my declining health, I will not be able to travel to Africa like I used to, so, I will have a little more time for the class preparation and for evaluating and grading the external courses. Therefore, we would ask you to tell your friends about our Bible College and the free tuition we are offering as long as we can. If you live in the North Carolina area, we would love to have you in our Thursday night classes. If you are away from this home area, you can enroll in the external studies. We have had about 30 African students. We look forward to continuing to help these precious students as they better equip themselves to serve the Lord. If you or someone you know are interested in any of our classes, please contact our offices and speak to Patsy Little, our Office Administrator and English and Music Departments Head. She will send you an application and a catalogue so that you can get started with our school.

This upcoming Spring Semester, we will offer the following courses on Thursday evenings:

Class	Teacher	Time
Spiritual Leadership 101	Rev. Ethan Drum	6:30 p.m.
New Testament Survey 102	Rev. Gary Jennings	7:30 p.m.
World Missions 101	Dr. Stan Frye	8:30 p.m.

If you are living near enough to our facilities to commute to the classes, you should register for the entire Bachelor of Biblical Studies Degree very soon. If you have any questions, please let us know. Just remember that we do have free tuition, but you have to sign a Free Tuition Agreement which states that you have to complete at least two years of the four-year program with at least a "C" average, no exceptions!

WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON KENYA AND UGANDA!

Most of you dear people know that since the very beginning of our GIMI ministry in Africa, our two main countries of work and ministry have been Kenya and Uganda, East Africa. For many years we have tried to put into place an infrastructure for these two countries in order for our national workers to share the Gospel and to reach more and more people for Christ. Truthfully, these two countries have been our fields of the greatest harvest because of our organizational structure and the diligent faithfulness of our national preachers and teachers. God has truly blessed our ministry in an enormous way in both Kenya and Uganda.

Because of the continuing fruitfulness of these two countries, because of the receptivity to the Gospel by the people in both of these beautiful fields, and because of my deteriorating health conditions, we have made the decision that we must cut back on many of our other countries with smaller works and just focus on Kenya and Uganda. Therefore, we ask you to sincerely pray for this renewed effort to reach more and more people for Christ in these two foundational countries of our work in order for hundreds and hundreds of additional people to receive the Gospel and come to Christ. We are going to give it our very best to reap the fields that are already white unto harvest.

I do hope and pray that you will participate with us in this enlarged effort, and that you will help us even more financially so that we can truly turn the countries of Kenya and Uganda "upside down" for Christ with the Gospel message. What a tremendous joy it is to see the hand of God working so mightily in both Kenya and Uganda. I ask all of you to really consider getting on our team to take the Gospel to these dear people that are begging for the truth or Good News found only in our Lord Jesus Christ! The Hope of the entire world is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have included maps of Africa, Kenya, and Uganda to give you a visual reminder of where we are diligently at work in the "vineyards" of our Almighty God!



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS!

Before moving on to the conclusion of this newsletter and to my "Effective Exposition", I want to take this moment to offer a sincere "Thank You!" to all of you regular and yes, even occasional supporters, who help us keep this great ministry going and growing after so many years of ministry. As I have stated so many times, it truly would be impossible for Jo Anne and me to keep pushing on without your help. It is our sincere prayer that God will not only bless you because you are standing with us now, but we also pray that He will reward you a million fold when we get to heaven and meet all of the people that have come to Christ through the outreach of this mission ministry. Thank you so much for investing in eternity by supporting this precious work for Jesus!

PLEASE LET ME MAKE A VERY SPECIAL APPEAL!

Let me conclude this thought about our great and wonderful financial supporters by making a special appeal to many of you who receive this newsletter. Please start giving to this great soul winning effort if you have never done so. We know that everyone can't give large gifts, but every gift is so much appreciated. When you consider that for every \$2.71 we spend, we see someone come to Christ, the small gifts go a long way in helping to win people to Christ in Africa and around the world. You see folks, Jo Anne and I know well that everyone can't go to the frontlines of missions bodily, but every child of God can be a genuine missionary by helping those who can and do go to the fields. And truthfully, there is no greater way on earth to invest in missions than to do so by supporting the nationals in these different countries.

So, let me remind you that all you need to do is to write a check to GIMI, place it in the enclosed envelope, and send it to

GIMI
P.O. Box 667
Taylorsville, NC. 28681.

We encourage many more of you to "get out of your box", and yes, even out of just your own church field, and help us take the Gospel to a lost and dying world. **WE SINCERELY NEED YOU TO JOIN OUR SUPPORT TEAM! I HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON YOU!** If you have any questions about giving, just let us know. We love you in the Lord!



**BROTHER SAMMY MBUGUA DELIVERING
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN A MEN'S PRISON**



**TURKANA LADIES AT A CHURCH SERVICE
IN NORTHERN KENYA**



KENYA
**BROTHER SAMMY
MINISTERING AT A SCHOOL**



**BROTHER GEORGE BASHUKKA
PREACHING IN A PRISON**



**BROTHER SAMMY DELIVERING
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN A WOMEN'S PRISON**



**YOUNG CHILDREN
IN PRISON WITH THEIR MOTHERS**



**GERALD KIBUULE AND PATSY LITTLE
MEETING IN PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME!**



**PASTOR MIKE MCKINNEY
LEADING IN PRAYER AT A WORSHIP SERVICE**



**A LADIES PRISON CHOIR
PRAYING IN A PRISON WORSHIP SERVICE**



**REV. SSENTUMBWE
LEADING A LARGE PRISON WORSHIP SERVICE**



**MAMA JO ANNE
JOYFULLY HOLDING A YOUNG PRISON BABY**



"Finding The Lost Treasure Of God's Perfect Will"

**"A Sermon
From The Book Of Romans"**

"Effective Expositions For Life"

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"Finding The Lost Treasure Of God's Perfect Will"

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2

Introduction

Have you ever dreamed of going treasure hunting? Have you ever thought about what it would be like if you or one of your family members discovered a lost treasure and suddenly got rich? Well, I am not sure that I have ever dreamed much about a sudden discovery of lost treasure, but I can honestly tell you that just over 52 years ago, I was diligently seeking the lost treasure of God's perfect will for my life. With the precious illumination of the Holy Spirit of God's Word, counsel from godly men and women, and the special support from Jo Anne, whom I had just married, I discovered the remarkable treasure of God's perfect will for my life and my future ministry serving God. It was truly a scary thing for this young eighteen year old young man with very little spiritual guidance, and almost no mentoring, to actually believe that God's perfect will for my life was to preach the Word of God and to take the Good News of the Gospel to a lost world. I almost shiver even now when I think about where I was when God showed me the treasure of spending my entire life serving Him. I would never have believed that God's will was to help proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom to the lost world, but truthfully, this discovery in my life could only be placed third in value in line behind my personal salvation and the discovery of my sweet wife Jo Anne. I must tell you that these past many years of faithfully trying to serve Christ in His work have been remarkable years in spite of the many hardships and difficulties. Yet, as every treasure hunter will tell you, it is not always easy and the job of treasure hunting requires a huge amount of patience and an enormous amount of hard work. But we know that when we finally find the treasure so sought after and longed for, the effort will be rewarded with what we find in the treasure.

In **Matthew 13:44**, we find these wonderful words. ***"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."*** In this parable our Lord gave a story about a man that found the hidden treasure in the field, covered it back up, and went just as quickly as he could to sell everything he owned to get the money to purchase the field where he discovered the treasure. In other words, he was willing to give up everything in order to find and enjoy an even greater treasure.

May I say to you that this should be the attitude of every born-again child of God! We must be ready to sell all and get rid of everything we might own in order to find the treasure of God's perfect will for our lives. This will probably require us to give up stuff, turn away from many of our worldly attachments, sever ties with friends and probably even some family members, and pursue the will of God for our lives to the extent that when we find this awesome treasure given by our awesome God, we will be ready to surrender our lives totally to His will, give what He wants us to give, go where He wants us to go, and sacrificially leave everything else to live in the perfect will of God.

But, How Do We Discover The Treasure Of God's Perfect Will?

Well my friends, I am so happy you asked this question, because I know God is more ready to show us His perfect will than we are ready to pay the price to find and fulfill His perfect will for our lives. There are no short cuts, no roads without curves and bumps, and no easy way to get in the will of God and then stay there. But, finding the will of God and living there the best you can every day of your life is the greatest and most peaceful thing that any human being could ever achieve. So now, I want to share with you some Biblical steps to finding God's perfect will and then living in His will every day of your life. Will you come treasure hunting with me right now? I surely hope you will, and if so, you will be richly blessed!

Let's Look At The Plan To Discover The Treasure!

When Paul the Apostle wrote the letter to the Romans, he had never been to Rome. It is believed he was in Corinth on his third stop there when he wrote to the Roman believers. It is truly believed that Paul wrote this letter to encourage the suffering and persecuted believers who were facing many unbelievable trials and even martyrdom. In the first half of the sixteen chapters Paul talks about the believers' positions and possessions in Christ. These chapters are some of the greatest inspired words in all of the Bible describing most all of the Bible doctrines of the Christian faith. The last eight chapters of this doctrinal treatise, Paul explicitly shared the believer's responsibilities as born-again children of God. He goes so far as to tell the Roman Christians that the only way they would be able to endure the persecution and suffering they were going through was to discover God's perfect will for their lives and live everyday carrying out that will. They would indeed suffer and may even be killed. But, if they had perfect peace in their hearts because they were in the will of God, then they could face whatever they had to face.

I must tell you today that like Paul's instructions for the Romans, the only way for us modern believers to have peace, joy, longsuffering, gentleness, self-control, love, moderation in behavior, and patience is to find the treasure of God's perfect will for our lives and then, live in His will as long as we live, until He calls us home to heaven or comes in the rapture. Also, there will be no personal fulfillment in the Christian life if we try to live outside the will of God. I need to tell you that after serving Jesus for over 52 years in full-time Christian service, I must confess that I seen very few believers in the modern church who show much evidence of living and serving in God's perfect will. However, I do want to tell you that it is my sincere desire that this written manuscript sermon might be very effective in causing you readers to seek and find the treasure you are looking for.

The Scripture for this study is **Romans 12:1-2**, which explicitly states, ***"I beseech ye therefore; brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."*** In all the thousands of sermons which I have preached in hundreds of churches and places of ministry, I have probably preached these two verses more than any other text. And thank God, I can readily attest that I have seen more people come to Christ and get their lives changed through this passage of Scripture than any of the other hundreds of passages I have preached and taught. Therefore, I believe these short two verses are some of the most important verses in the Word of God. You might say that these two verses, which provide three basic steps for discovering the perfect will of God, are the verses which God wants to use to change all of our lives for Him and toward Him. So my friends, let me admonish you to please pay attention to the following three main principles which are the beginning steps to discovering the treasure of God's perfect will for our lives. Now, let's carefully look at these steps.

I. THE FIRST REQUIRED STEP IS PERSONAL PRESENTATION. v. 1

It won't be but a couple months before we celebrate Christmas once again. Every year at Christmas, we ponder the best present and gift that was ever given to humanity, and that of course was our Lord Jesus Christ. And too, we usually concern ourselves with giving a lot of presents to our family members and our friends.

These gifts are usually given from a heart of love and compassion for those who are to receive them. Therefore, as we move forward with this study of the perfect will of God for our lives, let's meditate upon God's marvelous gift of salvation which Jesus brought down from heaven on that first Christmas morning in the manger. He came down to this earth to give Himself as the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and He most assuredly paid that great blood sacrifice for our redemption when He died on the cross. Then, on the third day, He gloriously arose from the dead to provide eternal life for all of us. Now the question is, "What gift will we give back to Him to show our appreciation for what He did for us?" This is what I want us to think about as we ponder this personal presentation.

A. There are reasons for this presentation. v. 1

1. There is the reason of Divine fellowship.

In beginning of verse one, Paul says, "**I beseech you therefore, brethren**". What the apostle is saying here is that he desires the Roman Christians to come, stop, and pay attention to his words because they are coming from his heart. The word beseech is described in the Greek as a term where two ship captains who notify each other to bring their ship along side the other close enough for them to talk seriously from one vessel to the other. Paul is almost begging the Romans to listen carefully to his words and then put into practice this presentation of themselves to Christ.

Paul tells the believers that they are all a part of the same fellowship of God's children, and that they should love one another enough to pay attention to his words because he was appealing to them to do so because Jesus had put them in the same family. You might say that Paul was talking about family or fellowship privileges and responsibilities to give Christ their lives because of the family He had placed them in. So my friends, I am appealing to you in the same family of God to use your position in the fellowship of believers as an impetus to present yourselves completely to Christ. To do otherwise would be a negative expression of ingratitude to Him for what He has done for you.

2. There is the reason of Divine favor.

In the second part of verse one, Paul says the following—"by the mercies of God." What this statement revealed to the Romans and to us today is that we have been Divinely favored by God. This means that we have been given the freedom from hell because of the extended mercies of God revealed at Calvary. And, because of God's wonderful mercy and amazing grace, we should voluntarily present our lives totally

and completely to Jesus because of our love for and our appreciation to Him. May I say that surely, it is only reasonable that we do this because He gave us the best gift ever, Himself!

B. There are rules for this presentation.

As we look further into verse one, we see that Paul tells the Roman believers that there are some rules that must be followed in the presentation of ourselves to Christ. Of course, I know that most people are so self-sufficient that they don't want to hear anything about rules and regulations, especially if they come from somebody else. Yet, Paul says that every believer has a God-given plan for the way we give God our lives as His gift. Let's look at this plan.

1. First of all, there must be a peculiar presentation.

The next part of this wonderful verse tells us that in order to discover the perfect will of God for one's life, this person must initially give himself or herself to Christ in a peculiar way. This gift starts at the moment a person gets saved and gives his or her heart to the Savior by childlike faith. This is the beginning of an eternal relationship that can never be severed, not even by Satan himself. Yet, multitudes of people who get gloriously saved never reach their God-given potential just simply because they never discover the treasure of His perfect will. So, my friends, have you presented your lives, bodies, souls, and spirits to the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of your salvation? If you have not, then you will never be able to find God's will or purpose for your life. Please get saved, even today as you read this article.

And, I must mention one more thing. We need to emphatically remember that genuine salvation is not the result of mentally believing in or embracing the concept that God exists. Many people seem to believe this today, but they have, in fact, never prayed to receive Christ personally and transformationally. They just believe that because they embrace the idea that God does exist, and He is the man upstairs that this makes them a Christian. But my friends, this does not bring salvation. Salvation begins with a spiritual new birth when a person puts their faith and trust in Christ, repents of his sins, and is transformed by the Holy Spirit. After this experience, then there will be a change in direction as the result of repentance. We must make sure that we have the real thing, and that we are not be a religious phony.

2. Secondly, there must be a priestly presentation.

In the second part of verse one, Paul tells the Roman believers that they must present their bodies as a living

sacrifice to Christ if they are going to discover the perfect will of God for their lives. Of course, most of us know that in the Bible days, it was the priest who offered up the sacrifices unto Jehovah God in the Tabernacle, and then later in the Temple. In order for these sacrifices made by the priests to be acceptable unto God, they had to be without blemish and prepared according to God's prescribed conditions for them. Any sacrifice or offering that was not prepared and offered in the way God had demanded was not accepted by God. Yet, all of us should know that our Lord Jesus Christ later became the perfect sacrifice for us as sinners in fulfillment of these prototype sacrifices made in the Tabernacle and Temple. There was no need to question the perfection or condition of Jesus' being the acceptable sacrifice to God the Father on our behalf. Why? Because He was the sinless, perfect son of God Who had come down to this earth voluntarily to pay our sin debt. The major difference was that every year in the month of October, the High Priest of Israel had to offer another sacrificial animal, without blemish, in order to purchase the atonement (covering) for sin for another year. But, we know that when the perfect son of God died the sacrificial death for our sins, it was a once and forever act of consecration.

Therefore, when we get saved by God's grace through faith and repentance, we must daily present our lives to Christ through sacrificial surrender of our lives to Him. This sacrificial act requires us to die to sin and to self, and give Jesus first place in our lives. Then, as we become more and more dedicated to Christ, the easier it is for us to discover His perfect will for our lives and ministry. In fact, I believe that it is impossible for a child of God to ever find God's perfect will if there isn't complete and total surrender. And probably the greatest requirement to finding God's perfect will is to deny self and seek only to please Jesus in everything. This may sound utterly ridiculous to some in this modern generation of Christians, but it was never ridiculous to the early church.

3. Thirdly, there must be a pure presentation.

The third rule for truly presenting our lives to Christ in order to discover His perfect will for our lives is that we must live a holy life that daily magnifies the Lord and provides a convincing testimony to the world around us. Now, I know that preaching holiness in this modern church age is blasphemous to some of those who have made grace a law unto itself, but the Holy Spirit of God who indwells every believer is not going to illuminate the Word of God and show the believer what God's will is for his or her life if there is not a pure or holy lifestyle.

And truthfully, just like the sacrifice in Bible days when the animal that was sacrificed had to be without blemish, so must our presentation to Christ be as pure and holy as possible. Therefore, we must live a holy lifestyle, trying our very best to live without succumbing to temptation from Satan. We need to remove from our lives any sinful practice and sinful attitude that would negate the influence of God's Holy Spirit within us. The Bible calls this "grieving the Holy Spirit".

So now, let me ask you, "Do you want to discover God's perfect will for your life?" If so, you must make the sacrifice of giving up and refraining from anything that is impure in thought or practice. I must tell you that if you do clean up your life and begin to practice holiness, you will experience the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit. You will be enlightened to new and wonderful things about God's will for your life. And, once you discover the perfect will of God, this new treasure will bring joy and fulfillment which you have never experienced before. In other words, there is no happier or more fulfilled life than living in God's perfect will.

4. Fourthly, there must be a pleasing presentation.

The last part of this glorious verse tells us that if we want to truly bring pleasure to the heart of God, we must present our bodies, souls, and spirits to Him in complete surrender. And, we need to understand that to do less than this will never be accepted or even tolerated by our Lord. I am not talking here about positional acceptance, because in **Ephesians 1:6**, Paul said, ***"To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."*** Thus, we have an accepted position in the family of God which has been given to us by grace. But, we also should be deeply concerned about living such a life of dedication that our works and actions will be accepted by God. We need to make sure that our works are not wood, hay, and stubble, but instead, that they be works like gold, silver, and precious stones. Therefore, we must always remember that our works will never bring pleasure to the heart of God unless they are the products of a life totally and completely presented to Christ as a gift. What about it friends? Are your works pleasing unto God? If not, today would be the right time to present your life of works totally and completely surrendered to Jesus.

II. THE SECOND REQUIRED STEP IS A PATTERNED SEPARATION. v. 2a

As we continue this study on discovering the treasure of the perfect will of God, we come to the first

part of verse two which provides for us the second required step to find God's will for our lives. This requirement is the step of a patterned separation. Please pay attention to the first part of this verse. Here is what Paul stated to the Roman believers. **"And be not conformed to this world:"** The word "conformed" in Strong's Concordance is defined as "someone aligning their character, their mind, or their behavior to the pattern set by another". Of course what Paul is telling us is that if we are really saved, then we should not allow others to demand that we follow their worldly examples and habits, but instead, we are to align our lives with the pattern set by our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we are to come out from the world and be separated as progressively sanctified saints, and we are to dedicate ourselves to righteous and holy living. So, in order for us to be separated (not isolated) from the world, we are to make the necessary changes by doing voluntarily and willfully the two following things. Let's take a close look at these two ingredients for living a life of Biblical separation.

A. This separation demands a rejection of worldly pressure.

Being separated from the pressure of the world means exactly like Jesus prayed for His disciples in His great Lord's Prayer in **John 17:15**. Pay attention to this wonderful verse. ***"I pray not that thou should take them out of the world, but that thou should keep them from the evil."*** Jesus was saying that He wanted His Heavenly Father to protect His disciples, and yes, even us today, from the pressure of Satan and his followers who constantly try so hard to get us to conform to their sinful ways. Read the following verses from **1 John 2:15-17**, wherein John admonished the early believers to live their lives in such a separated way that they could influence others to follow Christ, but not allow the world to mold them. Here are these marvelous verses. ***"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."***

These three verses remind us that just as Jesus was tempted in these same three ways, we are to follow His pattern, say "No!" to Satan and the world, and keep ourselves clean and holy before the Lord. In other words, we are to live in the world, but not be of the world. Thus, we are not to allow this world and its system to control or pressure our lives. Instead, we are

to be insulated from the world by the Word of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit. We are not to allow the world to pressure us to follow its patterns in any part of our lives.

So, the first question we should ask before we say anything, do anything, and before we make any decision, is simply, "What would Jesus have me to do in this matter?" We should only live as Christ would have us live. His will should take precedence in the recreation in which we involve ourselves, the places we go, the clothing we wear, the conduct of our bodies, the things we purchase, etc. The point is that if we are truly seeking to find or discover God's perfect will, then we must seek His will first and foremost before we ever do anything. It will not be difficult to discover God's perfect will for your life and ministry if Jesus is the One you consult and not the world. Now, the question I want to ask is, "Who determines the decisions you make, the world or our wonderful Lord Jesus?" Surely you know!

B. This separation demands a realignment with Godly principles.

The second point of this patterned separation is that we must carefully realign our lives with the principles of God's Word. We must rearrange our lives until Christ and spiritual principles take precedence in every decision we make, in every deed we perform, and in the priorities we have in our daily lives. When we truly separate ourselves from worldliness in order to live righteously, then life takes on a new meaning, we receive a new peace, and we will experience fulfillment like we have never known before. You might say that when we separate ourselves from the worldly principles, then Jesus enlightens or illuminates God's perfect will for us and we really begin to see what He has in store for us. As I stated in the introduction, when we truly uncover God's perfect will, it will truly seem that we have uncovered a great treasure which we would have never found if we had not decided to align ourselves with Godly principles. Simply put, separation from the world demands that we put many worldly things out of our lives, and in their place, we must put the principles of God's Word. When we do this, we will truly remove the dirt from the treasure of God's perfect will!

III. THE THIRD STEP REQUIRED IS A POWERFUL TRANSFORMATION. v. 2b

In the last part of verse two, Paul admonishes the Roman believers, and us, to not only separate from the world, but to also allow Jesus to transform our minds until we truly have the mind of Christ. Then, when we

have the mind of Christ, it will not be difficult to discern the will of God. As we allow God's Holy Spirit to transform our minds, then we begin to live in such a spiritual way as to give proof by our lifestyles that we surely do belong to Christ. When we provide this proof that we are genuinely saved, then we bring pleasure to the heart of God, and He is proud to call us His own children by His acceptance. Even if it sounds simplistic, the truth Paul is trying to get across to the Romans is that unless we give validity to our profession by our faithful works and show others that we are truly in Christ, then we will not provide credible evidence that God is our true heavenly Father.

It is very important that we come to understand that no professing child of God will ever be able to discern or discover the perfect will of God for his or her life unless there is a transformation of the mind which makes spiritual matters easy to understand.

Now, it is very important that we take a further look at this transformation in order to clearly understand what this powerful transformation is truly all about.

A. This is a miraculous transformation.

I want to share with you that although this transformation refers to a progressive change of a person's mind, we must understand that it begins with an instantaneous born-again experience. Pay attention to the following verse. ***"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new ."*** (II Cor. 5:17) This verse tells us that no transformation can occur until the old person becomes a new person in and through the new birth. Then, when a person gets gloriously saved, then he or she will have a new spiritual nature implanted by the entrance of the Holy Spirit into one's being, and then, instead of just having the old nature of sin which lives to sin, the new nature will make it possible for the Holy Spirit to carry out the process of progressive sanctification which will last until the person goes to heaven, or until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. This marvelous transformation begins with the miraculous work of Christ in one's life whereby the old person becomes a new creature.

And, I must tell you that when we get the new transformed mind, we still will retain the old nature which makes us susceptible to temptation. The old nature is not eradicated or erased as some modern-day pastors preach and teach, but it will still be inside of us to continually dog us until we are delivered from these sinful bodies. Therefore, we must understand that because of the old fleshly nature, we must continually work on allowing God to transform our minds which

started when we first got saved.

B. This is a mental transformation.

I believe it is extremely important to know that what we do in our bodies is the result of what we believe in with our minds. Therefore, this miraculous transformation of our minds, which takes place at the time of our salvation, must continue on through daily presentation of our lives to Christ as I mentioned earlier in this article. At the moment of our salvation, believe it or not, we become saints which means that we have been redeemed by Jesus through His sacrificial death on the cross, and He has set us apart for Himself from that day on. Thus, we become saints and will continue to become more saintly as our minds become more and more transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit as He illuminates the blessed Word of God. This is why we must daily read and study God's Word in order to become more and more mentally transformed. What we do in our bodies will be determined by what is in our minds. Just stop and think about this!

C. This is a metamorphoses transformation.

The Greek word for transformation is "Metamorphoo" from which we get our word metamorphoses. Those of you who have studied biology should know what this means. It literally means that a person is changed into another form, like Jesus was transformed on the Mount of Transfiguration into a person resplendent with a divine brightness **(Matthew 17:2)**. In biology this might mean for a plant to change into another form. Sometimes this process is called mutation. Mutation has been defined by Webster's Dictionary as "a change in the genes of a plant or animal that causes physical characteristics that are different from what is normal". For instance, a cat might be born with a short tail as the result of mutation. In other words, what is seen on the outside is because of the genetic mutation on the inside.

I believe one of the greatest illustrations ever given of this transformation is the caterpillar and the butterfly. When the caterpillar is hatched from the egg of a moth or butterfly, the larva continues to grow and becomes the worm. The worm grows and eventually weaves a cocoon around itself. And then, through the process of metamorphoses, the worm becomes a beautiful moth or butterfly. In other words, the worm dies and is resurrected a beautifully transformed creature.

This is exactly what must happen to the person who gets saved and in the process receives a transformed mind which now is enlightened to spiritual truth from

God's Word, whereby before, the person could not even understand the Bible when he or she read it, but now, the truth of God comes to life! Praise the Lord!

So my dear readers, in order for us to be transformed, there has to be a complete surrender or presentation and a patterned separation. No wonder a person becomes a new creature when this wonderful miraculous process starts with salvation and then continues on until one dies. My questions for you are, "Have you really become a new creature in Christ? Have you yet discovered the perfect will of God for your life?" If the answers to these questions are no, then you need to go to your pastor and ask his help in coming to know Christ for sure. There will never be transformation until there is salvation.

Conclusion

In coming to the conclusion of this article on "Discovering The Treasure Of The Perfect Will Of God For Your Life," I would like to ask you some questions very pertinent to what we have been discussing. Please pay attention to these questions and see if you need to go back to the time you professed Christ and make sure of your eternal salvation. Please know that "the lights will never come on" for transformation until you know you are saved for sure!

- 1. Do you know what the perfect will of God is for your life personally?**
- 2. Are you presently living in the perfect will of God?**
- 3. If you are not living in the perfect will of God, do you know how to discover the perfect will of God for your life and Christian service?**
- 4. Do you parents and grandparents know how to show your children or grandchildren how to discover the perfect will of God for their lives?**

If not, I believe you have some work to do lest these precious gifts from God end up in the world lost and wasting their lives. Believe me, I know about wasted lives because I have worked in prisons for over 40 years. Over and over again, I have seen young men and young women who have thrown away their God-given potential just because of some wrong choice or decision. If only they had gotten saved and discovered the treasure of God's perfect will for their lives, they may not have wasted their opportunities to serve God and be fruitful. I plead with everyone reading this article not to make the same mistake. God has a wonderful plan for your life, but this plan will never be discovered until you present your body, soul, and spirit to Jesus. After this, you must separate yourself from the wicked world and live a holy life. When this occurs, then the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit continues to

transform the believer's mind until that person thinks like Jesus, acts like Jesus, talks like Jesus, and lives like Jesus totally and completely.

Therefore finally, let's resolve in our hearts that we will be like Jesus and just enjoy the meat of doing the Father's will and completing the work that He has given us to do. Truly, there is no greater way to live with peace and fulfillment than to live in the perfect will of God. If you have not yet found this treasure, let's go forth to do some diligent treasure hunting!

A GREAT BIG CHRISTMAS WISH TO ALL OF YOU!

As I come to the end of this long article, I want to conclude by extending to you and your family a great big Christmas wish to everyone of you our GIMI Team Members. It is mine and Jo Anne's earnest prayer that this might be the best Christmas you and your family have ever experienced. I assure you that our family is really looking forward to spending some very special time together this year, celebrating the earthly birthday of our Lord Jesus, especially because of the hard and difficult times we have had with Pastor Mike's severe sickness and also, my bout with health issues as well. Every year, each Christmas seems to be more precious due to the uncertainty that we face with aging bodies and the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are truly promised that Christ is coming to rapture His bride very soon, and because we know He came the first time in the manger in Bethlehem, we also know that He will fulfill His promise to come again. So, may this Christmas bring all of us together in our families, but even more so to our King of kings and Lord of lords. Let's thank Him over and over for His gift of salvation, and for every blessed gift He has give to us down through our lives, especially for this most recent year of blessings! Please know that Jo Anne and I love you folks so very much!

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas To All,

Dr. Stan and Jo Anne Frye
Gateway International Missions
Psalm 100 and Luke 2:11





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