

# *Proving God's Will*

## **Your Life Mission:**

**Romans 12:1-3**

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Long before we were born, God had a dream about us. God had an idea and plan for you and me. You were born as a result of that dream and plan. I have important disagreements with the organization called Planned Parenthood, but *planned parenthood* describes the relationship you have with your Heavenly Father. You were planned.

***We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*** (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

“Long ago,” the Apostle Paul wrote, “he planned for us.” He planned good things for us to do. He dreamed about us. Martin Luther King Jr. declared, “I have a dream.” His dream captured many hearts. Has God's dream for you captured your heart? His dream for you is not trivial. How could a righteous, holy and eternal God have a trivial dream? His dream and will for you is not trivial.

In fact, his dream and will for you is neither trivial nor unreachable. Read these words from Romans 12:

***You will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*** (Romans 12:2, NIV)

God has a good, pleasing and perfect dream for you and me that we can fulfill. We can actually live life in a way that shows the reality and greatness of God's dream for us. God wants his dream to become real for you and me. He has made it come true with others. Look at what God has done.

Before Abraham was born, God had a dream for him. Before Rebekah was born, God had a dream for her. Before Moses was born, before Deborah, the conquering leader, before Hannah, Samuel, David and Elijah were born, God had a dream for each. The same great and good God has a great and good dream for us. What's more, the Bible says we can prove the reality and greatness of that dream.

Since God's thoughts and ways are so far beyond ours (Isaiah 55), his dreams for us go far beyond our imagination. So instead of God giving us a blueprint to follow, he calls us to take three steps, to make three choices or decisions.

The first decision is to give your body to God. The Apostle Paul wrote:

***I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice — the kind he will accept.*** (Romans 12:1, NLT)

It is one thing to risk your money. It is another thing to risk your reputation. Neither of those risks is adequate. To give your body to God is to risk all on God. It is to risk your fulfillment, your comfort, your health, your wealth, your future, your friendships, and your family all on God. Jesus risked all that for his Father's will. The Bible is about average people risking all for God and what God did in response to that risk. Now, you can be a dead sacrifice with one choice; and there is no more work. To be a living and holy sacrifice requires choices each and every day of your life. We call people who die for Christ *martyrs*. What do we call people who die to themselves continually and live daily for Christ? Jesus called them disciples. He also called them witnesses which is exactly what the word *martyr* means. God's witnesses are more than people who report what they observe. They witness God's greatness and goodness through the gift of the Holy Spirit and then trade their lives for God's call and cause. They trade their bodies and their lives for what God wants. Is your life all about what God wants? Do you believe that God has a dream for you and do you focus on it? Do you focus on God's vision for

you? Do you even know it? Realize that God has a dream for you, and that you need to trade your ambitions, dreams and everything else for it. Then take the second step.

Step two is be transformed.

***And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*** (Romans 12:2, NASU)

What is an interesting expression! *Be transformed*. We are not told to transform ourselves. We are told: “Be transformed.” How do you become transformed? First, you choose to resist the prevailing pressures in the world. You are being herded along with everyone else. You are being pressured to become something the world wants you to be. Since the world is in rebellion to God, you must stop submitting to its approval and disapproval. That’s tough to do. We all want to be liked. We all want to be respected. Jesus had to ignore the approval and disapproval of the respected leaders of his day. So did the Apostle Paul. You and I are being molded by a spiritual conspiracy against God. The human race is duped. We must actively resist the very value systems and judgments it believes are so rational. Second, the way you see and reason must undergo a birthing process. You will not be transformed without the renewing of your mind. That means you cannot continue to think the way you thought. You cannot continue to see the way you saw. Are you seeing and thinking differently than you were a year ago? I don’t care if you are 85 years old and have been actively following Jesus for 75 years. If your thinking has not changed in the past year, if the way you see things is the way you saw things one year ago, you may be religious, but you are not walking with Jesus. You can be religious and stagnant, but you can’t walk with Jesus and be stagnant. You can work for Jesus, speak for Jesus, teach for Jesus, sacrifice for Jesus and be stagnant. However, when you actually walk with him, he will teach you, rebuke you, correct you and train you. All of that will happen; and as that happens, you will undergo a deeply rooted and profound change, a transformation.

Step three is to accurately assess yourself.

***Be honest in your estimate of yourselves, measuring your value by how much faith God has given you.*** (Romans 12:3, NLT)

Do you know what a “huh” verse is? It’s a verse that you read, respond “Huh?” to, and then go on. For years that is how I responded to this word from God. “Huh?” Then I went on never pondering what God was saying to me.

You and I will never experience how fantastic God’s dream is for us until we do what this verse tells us to do. We are to assess ourselves honestly and not too highly, soberly, accurately according to the measure of faith God has given us. Huh? Look. There are things you are confident about. You have been given faith by God to accomplish certain things. You have seen that faith bear fruit. You are not to be all things or do all things. You are to do what God has given you the faith to do. You are part of a team. You are not a one-man or one-woman show. You will not see the perfection of God’s dream unless you use your gifts in partnership with others who have other gifts. God’s dream has you on a team playing a critical role, but not a solo show. That is so exciting because God puts us on teams that are designed to upset and overcome the forces arrayed against humanity. God dreams of our victory. He teams us together for victory.

It just takes three steps to prove how great your life mission is. Step one you can take right now. You can give Christ your body right now. You can say, “Jesus, I present this body to you. It’s yours. I’m yours. Your every wish is my every command.” Step two requires your choice and more. You choose to be transformed by evaluating every thought in view of God’s word. That means you need to find out what God says and thinks about everything you see, hear and think. Step three calls you to teamwork. Look at what gifts God has given you and use them on the team God leads you to. God’s exciting dream for you will unfold.