

[Pastor Lee Wiggins]

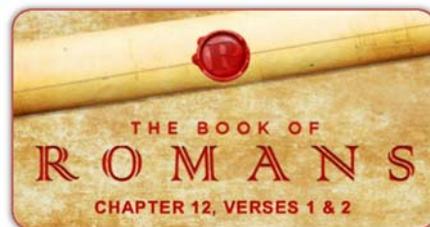
You have 168 hours in this week and we get to spend one right now together, and in my belief this one should not be your only hour of worship bringing praise, ascribing worth to God Almighty. And so we have created a series called MADE FOR MONDAYS because we believe that the other 167 hours are incredibly important and we want to weigh in on that, and we want to begin to think about that.

We started back at the beginning of the year in the book of Romans. We went through the first eleven chapters and even this summer we've just grabbed some of the high points of it. Today we begin and for the rest this year we're gonna go from Chapter 12 on, and we're gonna spend a few weeks in Chapter 12 because Chapter 12 is just unbelievable and I would love to introduce that to you today. Before I do—we're gonna study Romans 12:1 & 2 today—and at the end of verse 2 it talks about the will of God. And if I were to poll each one of you and say, “What do you want to hear a sermon on?” or “What would you like to hear a series about?” one of the things which always rises to the top, because I've done it before, would be, “I'd like to hear about the will of God.” And oftentimes that understanding of the



will of God is because there's a spot that if I could somehow figure out what the will of God is then I can head for it out there somewhere. And it almost comes sort of like a Christian fortune cookie, to somehow be able to figure out what that might be on there, and what this text is going to tell us is actually it's a little bit different than that and I'd like to walk you through that today.

So if you have your Bibles I would love for you to turn to Romans Chapter 12, verse 1. If you're doing the whole handheld thing, go ahead and bring it up on your phone or iPad or whatever you have. Also, if you don't own a Bible, we always have Bibles in the back. We'd love for you to take one of those and follow along in that Book. We are a people of The Book and we're always talking about the Bible here.



Chapter 12, verse 1, and while you're going there the very first phrase says, “*I appeal to you therefore, brothers,*” and when he says the word “appeal” that to me sounds rather firm or harsh, but rather it's not. It's actually like I want to come alongside of you, each of you. And then he says, “therefore,” and therefore always points back to something, and in this case he's pointing back to the first 11 chapters.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

– ROMANS 12:1 (ESV)

Now, if you remember the first 11 chapters there was some hard stuff in there. In fact, the hard part about teaching the book of Romans was the first three weeks were all about you're a sinner, they're a sinner, they're a sinner, we're all sinners, we're really bad sinners. And, you know, it's just a great way when you just talk about how bad our sin is to just cause us all to walk away really discouraged. And then the rest of those chapters begin to walk us down the plan to getting us saved, to understand what

took place on the cross of Calvary. And so when he says, *“I appeal to you,”* he says I'm coming alongside of you based on everything that's been said in Chapters 1 through 11, all that doctrine and teaching and all that foundation that's been laid, I'm gonna come alongside of you now and we're gonna talk about how to live this out, how to make this practical in our lives. So the rest of this series from Chapter 12 to the end of the book is really practical, very helpful, shoe-leather type stuff that we can live out in our lives.

At the end of Chapter 11, actually in my Bible from that word “therefore” in this first verse of Chapter 12 I drew a line to Chapter 11 and verse 33, and it says:

³³ *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

³⁴ *“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”*

³⁵ *“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”*

~ ROMANS 11:33-35

And he says therefore I want to come alongside of you, I want to—because God's so big, because God is so right, because He's God, who can tell Him how to do it? Who can, I mean, there's a whole lot of stuff in Chapters 1-11 we didn't understand, didn't make any sense to us. It's ok. It's not for me to counsel God and go, “Yeah, I think there's a better way to do this. Why did we have to do it this way?” He says, “Listen, God, You're bigger than me. I don't understand it all but—.” Paul says let me come alongside of you now and try to help you figure out, *Now what do I do with it now I've got it?* And he says, “Therefore, brothers” —he's speaking to us brothers and sisters in Christ, those who have put our trust in Jesus. And from here he says this:

¹ . . . *by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,*

— that's that punchline I was telling you about; so something here is going to help us discern what God's will is —

what is good and acceptable and perfect.

~ ROMANS 12:1-2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

– ROMANS 12:1 (ESV)

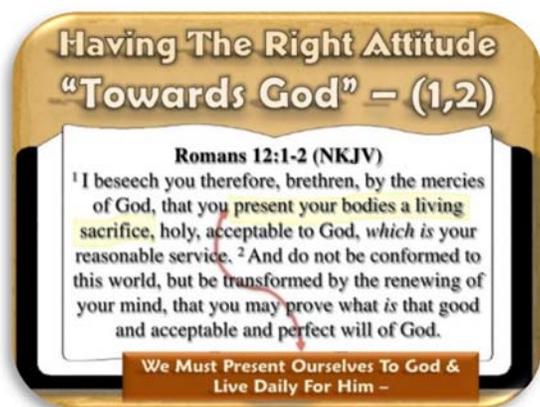
So what I'm do this morning is just grab a couple key phrases in this text, we're gonna chat about them. I'm going to talk about the living sacrifice. I'm gonna be talking about being conformed to this world. I'm going to chat about renewing your mind.

When he starts out here by saying you need to become a living sacrifice, that's one of those things that doesn't make a whole lot of sense to us. What is a living sacrifice? In fact, you talk to most people they don't want to sacrifice for anything or with anything. That's so off-putting to most. But now he says I want you to be a living sacrifice—what does that mean? For those reading this originally that would make sense. They were very familiar with the sacrificial system of the Old Testament where you brought in a lamb without blemish and you sacrificed that before God for the forgiveness of your sins. They had to keep doing it, that's why ultimately Jesus comes to a cross, hangs on a cross and dies and becomes the perfect sacrifice once for all, sacrificed on our behalf. He says now, now that Jesus has done that, here's the practical way that we're gonna live it out, we're gonna become living sacrifices. What does that mean? And I'm just gonna go really simple here and say it means “all-in.” That rather than thinking about what I can get out of God or what I can get out of Jesus, what I can get out of following Him, I want to know what can I give of myself? I'm all in with every aspect of my life.



Old Testament sacrificial system

The reality is I don't know everything. I haven't learned all that God wants me to do when I look at His Book, but whatever I know I act on and I respond to. In this very verse he says, “*by the mercies of God*” I beg you. He says hey, this is because of what God did on the cross and brought mercy to us, and grace and forgiveness. We're not talking about something harsh that's come to us, but rather because of the mercy of God it would be our natural response to want to give back to God and to serve God and to sacrifice to Him.



And the animal sacrifice I mentioned a moment ago with the lamb, that was a sacrifice but the animal had no say in the situation, no choice. Now he says to us you're a living sacrifice. By the time that animal gets there he's dead; in our case we're alive and this living sacrifice is going to be something that happens on an everyday basis.

He goes on to describe this living sacrifice as holy and acceptable to God. Holy—being set apart—set apart for God's purposes, set apart in the way we live our lives which is acceptable to God. And in fact, he says is our spiritual worship. I sort of push back on when we think of *this* as our worship because Scripture over and over wants

us to know that our worship takes place every day of the week, and so I don't know that I'm there. Yet the things that you consider as most important take place every day of the week. They take place all 168 hours. They're on your mind right now, they're on your mind this afternoon, they're on your mind when you go to the office tomorrow. The most important things we worship. And he says listen, when we understand what God has done for us, the mercies of God, it is a—there's the word “spiritual” and one of the other translations¹ will say “reasonable” worship, like it makes sense. In fact, the Greek word is the word we get the word logic from, it is a logical thing to praise God and worship Him.

Remember when I used the word “therefore” a moment ago in the first sentence of this first verse? It pointed right back to the words right before that where he goes, “God, You're big! God, You're great!

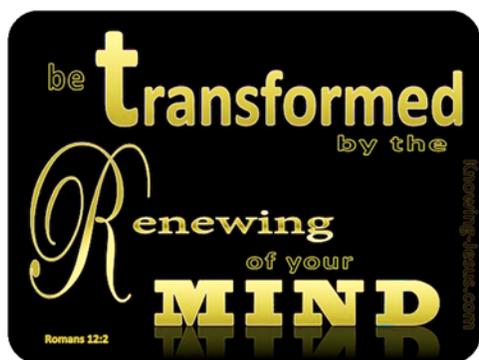
¹ Word search conducted on <https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Romans%2012:1> that use “reasonable” in Romans 12:1 include AMPC, KJ21, BRG, DRA, EXB, GNV, ISV, KJV, AKJV, LEB, MEV, MOUNCE, NET, NMB, RGT, VOICE, WYC

God, You've done – I can't tell You what to do even though I don't get it. You're great.” And he says here this is the logical thing, this is the reasonable thing for me to do is to take my life and to make a living sacrifice out of it. And he describes it as holy, set apart and acceptable to God. This requires a mindset change, and I'm gonna say this a couple times throughout this message because verse 2 talks about renewing our mind.

But I'm just gonna bring it up right now: A mindset change is that I want to give all to God, it's not about all I want to *get* from God. And oftentimes that's what we see it as this is this thing of if I come to Jesus, this is what I get. Yes, He gives us. He loves us. He's given us everything. But my response of a living sacrifice is changing my mind and my mindset and saying, “What can I *give* to God?” I want my life to be centered around that, therefore, because of how big He is, how great He is.



By the way, if there was one thing that I wish every one of us could walk away from this church every week being blown away by is how great God is. Many times we come in here and we have this “me” mindset, I need to fix this, I need this, I need that, and we leave with a “me” mindset and anytime we're stuck in that it's just sort of a dark day. But when we get a God mindset we realize how great He is and how powerful He is and that carries us through our life; that gives us lift, that gives us hope, that gives us encouragement.



The second phrase that I mentioned that I would like to bring up today is found in the second verse, and in the second verse it says do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Do not be conformed—another translation says to be pressed into the mold of the world.² And everything around us is constantly trying to press us into a mold

of the world, of the world's system, of Satan who is the father of lies, who's trying to tell us one thing when God says no, it's a different way. And we struggle with that on a daily basis. Another translation will say do not be pressed into the pattern³ of this world and life is all about patterns. And when we begin to recognize those patterns it can really help us turn things around. So we recognize, “Whoops! My mind is being pulled away. That's not God speaking, that's nothing I've ever read in my Bible. That is not truth, that's what the world's system tells me.”

And so it tells me how to get ahead, it tells me how to treat people, how to live my life. I don't want to be pressed into that mold, but most of us know that every day—I don't care who we are in this room—we are influenced like crazy. Turn on a radio, turn on the TV, turn on a computer, sit in the office, listen to conversations, whatever it is there's this influence that's just constantly trying to press us into a mold and pretty soon we're repeating something that isn't anything that God has said. In fact, it isn't even right according to God's Word but because we're hearing it everywhere we go we are repeating it over and over again. And here's the problem we struggle with and it's what this text is telling us, if you really want to know God's will in your life, if you really want to have that as part of your life, you're gonna have to be all-in. You're going to have to give your life as a living sacrifice. And what we have for a lot

² *Do not be shaped by [conformed to; pressed into a mold by] this world [age]; instead be changed within [transformed] by a new way of thinking [or changing the way you think; the renewing of your mind]. Then you will be able to decide [discern; test and approve] what God wants for you [is God's will]; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect. – ROMANS 12:2 (EXB)*

³ CEB, EHV, NIV, NIVUK – <https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Romans%2012:2>



of people is when they have responded to Jesus it isn't an all-in thing, it's pressing like. In fact, that's one of the concerns I have. You'll see in a lot of our literature and I've created some of the wording here where it says we want you to "say yes to Jesus" and that is exactly what I want you to do because I think sometimes we just have to step across that line where we say yes, I'm in, yes, Jesus, forgive me of my sins, come into my life. But I think a lot of people see that as going sort of a thumbs-up to Jesus like, yeah, that's good, ♥ to Jesus, and that's the end of it. And what it turns out to create in us is this very much a casual Christian mentality, which I don't think the Scripture ever talks about.

Remember at the beginning of this Apostle Paul says I appeal to you, I'm coming alongside of you and going, hey, listen, because of all this, because of what happened there, because of this mess that we got ourselves in called sin, I appeal to you. Come on, let's go and let's do this right, and to do so you're gonna have to be a living sacrifice. And when we read these words in verse 2 that say "*do not be conformed to this world*," quite literally that *do not be* would be better translated *stop* being conformed in this world. I picture a stop sign there, stop! And yet everything is pushing that way for us. One of the practical ramifications of this are our kids, they are watching everything that we do and they are mimicking it.



I was amazed when my kids were real little and we'd hide something up high or we'd hide some candy or something like that so that we could have it after hours and they knew where it was. How does something that size [*gestures knee-high*] know what's up in that cabinet up there? They know everything. My son even to this day we go into a store he's always pointing out stuff the way I behave and the way I act, he studies me and then he repeats to me and then I'm all self-conscious about it. But if we walk into like a furniture store or something like that, I have this thing where if I see something that I like I knock on it, I just sort of tap it, and he points it out. He goes, "Ah, Dad's tapping that, he must like that." I go into a car dealership, I tap things, I tap the cars, I tap the dash or I tap the steering wheel, I don't know, it's just – it must be me but he has observed that, he's seen that, and he copies that.

And those of us who are parents, they're watching us and they're seeing how we live our lives. And they're seeing if they are consistent and they are seeing if they are conformed to this world or if they were following Jesus. And so we can bring them to church on Sunday morning and teach them one way but we live our lives the rest of the week and we're teaching them through our lives. Those of you in here right now that were upstairs first hour teaching our children, I just want to say thank you so much to you and it's just huge, and I hope you just like poured it on them, just give it, give it, give it, give it to them. And I hope you're giving them a lot of Bible because that's what they're here for, this is church. But I have to tell all the rest of us parents that we need to be teaching it all week long, we need to be living it out all week long because we are their teacher, and our life and our lifestyle they're watching super close. And here's what I want you to know: **You get what you are.** And what you're really living or how you're really living out they're learning a worldview from you.



I want to give you two lists because when we say stop being conformed to this world, there's all sorts of different opinions on what that may look like. I know there's a, you know, you only have to drive what 15-20 minutes west of here and you'll see a whole community of peoples that dress differently and drive different types of transportation than we drive, and you'll see different levels of severity of that 15-20

minutes west of here. And for them they would say that is not conforming to the things of this world. One of the things that is going on in this text that the Apostle Paul wants us to be aware of when he brings up animal sacrifices, that was a very external thing, he's now going to come to the internals. We get fixated on externals because we can judge each other on externals and we can control each other on externals. I say we've got to go away from that and we need to look to the internals, and that's what he's redirecting us to. We need to look at what the Scripture teaches us.

Here's what the problem is, oftentimes we come into a situation like this and we say, "Follow what God's Word is," but we live in a world that's been pressing us into it its mold to a point that we're never shocked by what's in that mold. We've just become rather okay with it, so here's just a couple thoughts. Three things, three temptations that will destroy you. I'm not putting them up on the screen. If you're taking notes, you'll want to write these three down, three temptations that will destroy you because this will be something worth having a conversation with—money, power, and sex—three temptations, and they're three temptations that we all deal with. And when we look at that we need to figure out: How am I going to align my life with the way God speaks of money? How am I going to line my life up with how God talks about power and sex?



I would say to you I hope all of you are in groups. If you're not, grab our church app, download it, it's written in our program that you saw at the door how to download that if you like and figure that out. Or, you don't do apps, go on our website⁴ and it is a very interactional thing on how to get into a group in our church because you need that relationship and that connection. In there you'll have a conversation about this message this week. When you have a conversation about this message you'll want to bring this up because these are the temptations that once we start looking at these so much else flows out of. When he says stop being conformed to this world, we could talk about these three things—money, sex, and power—and say, "Whoa! I need to realign myself up with what Scripture says in this area."

I would also say that a separate list there are four objections to Christianity. Things that you're going to hear people tell you this week at work or in your neighborhood about where they stand about Christianity. That because they say them with such boldness and like this is the way it is, it's going to be really, really hard for you to push back on it and you'll even feel a little bit off-put by it but not sure what to do with it.

INTOLERANCE The first objection to Christianity that will be brought up to you is intolerance. You hear that all the time because what they're saying is you have brought up a word, you have called something "sin" and because they have chosen to go that path, which you would expect them to, they're not Christ followers, they see that as intolerance; when in point of fact, that's not at all the case. In fact, the book of Romans as hard as it was to jump into the deep end right at the beginning there with sin, sin, sin, they're a sinner, you're a sinner, we're all sinners, as hard as that was it says hey, that's the issue with the world. I mean, who among us hasn't been among a bunch of non-believers this week and they just said how messed up is this system, how messed up is our world, how troubled are these people, and you recognize yeah, that's just – all that is a sin. But when we call it by that word it's seen as intolerance. Our tendency is to back up from that and not bring that up any longer. That's why a lot of churches won't even talk about sin, but without

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⁴ <https://www.cfdowningtown.com/groups>

calling it for what it is, which some people will call intolerance, you can't bring the love of Jesus to bear on that sin. How do we fix that? How do we fix what was broken in the Garden of Eden? How do we fix what I was born into – this sinful world and this sinful life that I am part of? And it is God's love that is poured out that fixes that. This is the most loving conversation, not intolerance, and yet because it's called intolerance sometimes we back off from it.

The result of becoming tolerant towards sin is that we become intolerant towards God and His Word.

SEXUALITY The second objection to Christianity is that of sexuality which includes this whole menagerie of subjects such as abortion, gay marriage, premarital sex, extramarital sex, pornography, and you begin to delve into that and you recognize there are areas where I need to line up my life that are not lined up right now. And it begins to help us understand this world's trying to conform me into its mold in the area of sexuality, and God says no, stop, back up, line your life up with what God has to say.

By the way, I mentioned these three things—money, sex, and power—and now intolerance and sexuality so that you have some categories to think through. So if you're gonna start teaching your children you better be teaching them about this stuff from a young age. When I was a kid, you know, it was like when you get in the middle of junior high, you know, I remember I had to read a book called *Almost 12*, you know, it was like that's when I had to get “the talk.” Today that talk has to happen a lot sooner and it needs to happen over and over and over again because they're being talked to in the earliest days of elementary school if not before. And as a family and as a parent we need to be getting God's words into our minds and God's truths so that we're lined up with those truths.

MORALITY Four objections to Christianity, intolerance, sexuality—morality. The words you're gonna constantly hear out there is that Christians are hypocrites. We've heard that over and over and over again and the answer to that is supposed to be, “So it mustn't work.” Well, what you and I understand and we studied this in the first 11 chapters of Romans is that we carry this old man of sin along with us and we drag it along throughout this life. But some day when we are glorified and we are brought into the presence of Jesus, then and only then will we be made perfect. We are not perfect people. We fail. We come up short. We're not okay with that, that's why he says here to sacrifice ourselves daily. This is a daily activity of saying no, I'm gonna bring my life all-in into submission to the Lord Jesus Christ into what God wants. It's, by the way, THEE best way to live. And something stupid—sin—continues to mess with our head and pull us away. This world's system and the lies of it keep on trying to push us back into that, and we have to come and crawl back up onto the altar and sacrifice ourselves on that altar.

AUTHORITY So the four objections of Christianity—intolerance, sexuality, morality—and the last one is authority, specifically the Word of God and authority under God Himself. Most people say, “I don't want anyone to be in charge of me.” I am my own god. And even down to the authority of the Word of God, will I accept what God says for me? If so, if He says something here in this Book will I just do it?

So I saw a survey this week and I just thought to give you all the numbers and all it was just too much time to work through it, so let me just explain it to you this way. A hundred Christian high schoolers are given this survey with a hundred questions in it and in the middle of the questions was this one question



that basically said: Do you believe the Bible is God's inspired Word of God, that it's helpful for life and godliness in everything that you do? And a large percentage of these Christian kids said yes, I believe that the Word of God is inspired, you know, it's for my life. They made the very next question a question that said this: Do you believe that there are things that happen in our modern-day times that the Bible can't be trusted on because things are different today? And an overwhelming number of the exact same group of

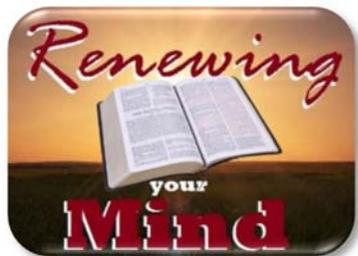
students said yes. You see what I'm saying here is there's a duplicity and we've struggled with it in our own families where we go, "Yes, it is God's Word. I believe in it. I hold it up high. I believe it's right all the time and it's the way I should live." And then something happens to one of our kids or in our life and we go, "Well, this is a little bit different and I think God would understand that," and pretty soon we live a life where we're no longer under God's authority but we're using our own authority or those who are breathing into us and their authority.

duplicity

These are things to be thinking about, to have a conversation about in your group this week. As we begin to think: Have I been pushed into that mold? And here's the mindset change—remember I said we have to have a mindset change?—do you know what God has to say about these things? And the only way you're gonna know is to get to your Bible and I'd encourage you this week if you say, "Well, he brought up this in the message, I don't know what God has to say about that. I've heard Christians feel this way, where's He say it? And dig together as a group in that.

Now if you're not in a group yet or you can't get in a group for this week, have this conversation at home. Talk to your family about it, start digging in your Bible together because it gets exciting when we line our lives up with the Lord. Now let me tell you why and he goes this last thing, he says renew your mind, be transformed, be changed, metamorphose, by the renewing of your mind. This isn't a once and done thing in a world that's trying to push us into its mold, we're gonna have to constantly renew our mind, and we use the Word of God and we come back to the Word of God to line our lives up to the Word of God.

And there's a given point in any discipline that we go through where we say, "I make up my mind to do this." If you used to work out and you skipped the gym for a long time what happens about December 26? I'm going back to the gym on January 1. You make up your mind and you make up your mind how often you're gonna go. You're gonna make your mind up how long you're gonna go for. You're gonna make up your mind on how hard you're going to work. And depending how disciplined you are



determines whether you're still doing it come September that year, but in order to do it you'll have to make up your mind. And that's what he's saying here is you're going to have to make up your mind to renew your mind daily with the Word of God, that's why we keep on putting that before you.

He says this at the end of the verse so that by testing—make up your mind, renew your mind, learn this stuff and test it, test it, see if it works—so that by testing you may discern what the will of God is. Let me explain this very simply: I do what's right today and a week from now I look back and I go, "I did what was right and it was a good thing." A month later you look back and you go, "I did what was right and it was the right thing." I look back a decade later, decades later, and pretty soon it becomes cumulative. When you make decisions about walking with God, doing it God's Way, what you do with your money,

HOW TO DO THINGS GOD'S WAY

MADE FOR MONDAYS | WEEK 1 | 9.8.2019

how you handle your sexuality, what to do with that power you've been given—TODAY we make up our mind.

Now here's where it wraps up and it's so cool, he says so that you may discern the will of God. When I look back is where I'm seeing how the will of God worked itself out. We want to somehow look ahead and get some sort of [*mimics like he's talking on the phone*], "Yes, God? Oh, You're telling me to marry him? Okay. Good." You're not hearing that. Stuff is coming into your head but you don't know if it's of God. "Oh, I'm supposed to move?" Stuff is coming into your head, don't know if it's of God. Some people are a little bit more sure of that, then you get there and you go, *Was this of God? How could this be of God?* What he's saying is you live your life lined up with the Word of God today so that you can test; you can test living out the best way to live—doing it God's Way—so that you can look back and say God did it, so you can see God's hand on your life.

Yes, God?
Oh, You're
telling me to...

The last couple weeks my wife and I have been on vacation. Prior to that I was speaking at a conference in Arizona and we got there a day early, and many of you know that I spent most of my ministry years in Arizona, a better portion of them, and we raised our family in Arizona. And so there's a lot of memories there and there's a lot of history there. And we spent that whole day – we got in a rental car and we just drove, I don't know how many miles we would put on that thing that day. Our rear ends were sore by the end of the day, but we covered a lot of that state in one day because we spent a lot of time all over that whole state. And time after time after time we were just like wow, I remember when we were in a tough spot and what God did there. Oh, what God did there. Oh, that God opened that door. Oh, that God provided that. And by the end of the day there was this moment where we both looked at each other and said, "You realize what we said all day long is how good God was in each one of those situations." Never once, never once did we say, "God messed up there," because there was this overwhelming feeling of what God had done.



Granite Dells, Prescott, Arizona

When we live our lives according to His ways we can look back and we can see God's hand in every aspect of our life. And so when you today decide I'm gonna date a Christian, I'm gonna live pure, I'm going to build a spiritual relationship with them, I'm gonna walk holy with them, and you end up getting married. Guess what? It was God's will that you married them because you're doing it God's way. When you save up your money and you prepare for a major purchase so that you don't have to go into debt and you finally make that major purchase and you look back after having gotten that purchase for a phenomenal price you go, "Wow! Look how God has blessed!" And how God's will was in it because we were all along there making right decisions.

That health situation when immediately you took it to prayer, when immediately you sought God's counsel on it, when you did what James says and bring it before the elders and have them pray over it, and you look back and, "Wow, God, I can't believe how that worked out." Because we did each of those things that God was telling us to do, and then days later, months later, years later, we can look back and go, "Wow! He's a big God." You can know the will of God, you can be a part of it, and I would encourage you to start looking at your life every day going, "How did I line up with the Word of God today so that I can have the will of God in my life today?"

HOW TO DO THINGS GOD'S WAY

MADE FOR MONDAYS | WEEK 1 | 9.8.2019

Let's pray.



Lord God,

I bring each person before you in this room who want so bad to be part of your will. I thank You that your ways tell us the best way to live and sometimes it is a big sacrifice to do something different than what everyone else is doing because your ways are better and always right. And so I pray that You'll help each one of us to evaluate those ways, to test those ways and discern them, and to see that your will starts overwhelming us in our lives.

Lord, even as we give our tithes and offerings right now we're reminded that something as simple as money that we get paid on a weekly basis is a sacrifice when we give it back to You, but knowing that You said that when we give the first part of our income back to You, You bless that. That makes zero sense to the world around us, but as living sacrifices we do it with joy and happiness in our heart, in our lives.

Lord God, there are people in this room also today that are just about at a place where they're making decisions that they know aren't your way. And if they want to be in your will, I pray that this will be the moment that will turn that dial and change that direction and they will follow hard after You.

We love You, Jesus. Thank you for your love of us and thank you for coming alongside of us so lovingly and reminding us of your way. We do want your will and it's gonna be exciting to see that as we recount it week after week.

It's in the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

We are going to be passing the buckets right now and you can give back to Lord. I know a lot of you give online, I appreciate that, through our app. Sometimes the things that we automate just get done. Probably if you had a check you'd forget to bring it today, but whether you're giving online or whether you're passing the bucket today, thank you for giving. And thank you for making Jesus first in your life and that's part of your worship today. It's not just a paying of the bills, it's surely not an entry fee, it's putting Jesus first in your life. And our hope and our prayer is that for the other 167 hours this week that's exactly what you'll do. Join us as we're singing this last song.



Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/358642530>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/aa90ZiQpMCA>

Facebook – 930AM: <https://www.facebook.com/CFDowningtown/videos/2341392116089797/>

Facebook – 11AM: <https://www.facebook.com/CFDowningtown/videos/434646693816374/>

Calvary Fellowship website: <https://www.cfdowningtown.com/watch>

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MADE FOR MONDAYS | WEEK 1 | 9.8.2019

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