

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

God's Will: Found - Part 2

God's Will: Found | Part 2 | Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

INTRODUCTION

An old poem captures the heart of a believer's deepest desire: "In the center of the will of God, here I take my stand. There cannot come any secondary causes. All must come from his dear hand." To know God's will and to live fully within it is the safest and most fulfilling place a person can be. Yet, we often complicate the process, thinking God's will is a mysterious code to be cracked rather than a relationship to be lived. We ask, "God, just show me your will, and I'll do it," when the reality is quite the opposite.

The truth found in Scripture is that God's will is more about *being* than *doing*. Out of who we are in Christ, our actions will naturally align with His purposes. By delighting ourselves in the Lord, His desires become our desires. This guide explores the clear, biblical principles that transform us from the inside out, allowing us to test and approve what God's will is: his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

KEY POINTS

1. You Must Be in the Right Frame of Mind

God's will becomes clear when our thinking is transformed. This is not about trying harder but about surrendering completely. The Apostle Paul urges us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. This is an act of worship where we take our hands off our own lives and say, "Lord, whatever you want, the answer is yes." This attitude of submission is the key that unlocks a renewed mind. When we stop conforming to the patterns of the world and instead allow God to reshape our thoughts and desires, we begin to want what He wants. It is from this place of sacrifice and renewed thinking that we can test and approve God's perfect will.

2. You Must Live in a State of Gratitude

One of the most powerful ways to align with God's will is to cultivate an attitude of gratitude in all circumstances. This does not mean we thank God *for* every tragedy, but we thank Him *in* every situation, trusting His sovereign hand. When walking through difficult seasons, such as physical suffering or personal disappointment, our response should be to thank God for the opportunity to honor Him. This mindset shifts our focus from our own pain to His divine purpose. By thanking Him for what we are walking through, we acknowledge that He can use every part of our story, the good and the bad, for His glory and as a testimony to others.

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

God's Will: Found - Part 2

God's Will: Found | Part 2 | Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Knowing and doing the will of God is not a formula; it is a journey of transformation. It starts by becoming a child of God and learning to walk in the flow of His Spirit. From there, the path becomes clearer as we intentionally cultivate the right frame of mind and a consistent attitude of gratitude.

Instead of fighting the circumstances you are in, begin to thank God for them. This is not a call for pretense but an act of profound faith. It acknowledges that God is sovereign over your disappointments, your physical struggles, and your unfulfilled dreams. He is not asking you to fix everything. He is asking you to remain faithful right where He has placed you, trusting that He can use your story for His glory. Your quiet, steady obedience through suffering becomes a powerful, wordless sermon to your family and all who are watching. God's plan for your life is unfolding right now. Trust Him, thank Him, and watch how He uses your surrendered life for purposes greater than you can imagine.

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

God's Will: Found - Part 2

God's Will: Found | Part 2 | Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what ways has conforming to the “pattern of this world” shaped your thinking about success, happiness, or purpose? What is one practical step you can take this week to offer yourself as a “living sacrifice” and begin renewing your mind?
2. Dr. Dodd shared his struggle to thank God for his wife’s physical challenges. What trial in your life feels like a disaster or disappointment? How can you shift your prayers from asking God to change the situation to thanking Him for how He can be glorified through it?
3. Your current circumstances, no matter how difficult, can become a Christ-honoring legacy for the next generation. What unseen or difficult area of your life could become a powerful testimony of God’s faithfulness if you chose to embrace it with gratitude today?
