

April 27 & 28, 2024 Doule A. Jackson

## I. Too Many Excuses

**Matthew 22:1-3** (NIV) *The Parable of the Wedding Banquet...* Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: **2** "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. **3** He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, **but they refused to come**. (Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:16-24)

The stress we feel is God's	and our hear

When the whole world is running towards a cliff, he who is running in the opposite direction appears to have lost his mind. —C.S. Lewis

Faith is taking God seriously. —Derek Prince

# II. A Change in Thinking

Romans 12:1-3 (NIV) From God and through him and for him are all things... 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**3** For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Choose to believe God's	is good
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The will of God is not something you add to your life. It's a course you choose. You either line yourself up with the Son of God... or you capitulate to the principle which governs the rest of the world.

-Elisabeth Elliot, Author Through Gates of Splendor

God's plans for you are better than any plans you have for yourself. So don't be afraid of God's will, even if it's different from yours.

-Greg Laurie, Pastor Harvest Church

#### III. No Pain No Gain

**Philippians 4:12-14** (NIV) *Thank you for the Gifts...* **12** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

Transformed	people see the	

**Psalm 18:28—30** (NIV) **28** You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

**29** With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.

**30** As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.

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### The Daniel Example:

**Daniel 1:8** (NIV) **8** But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

**Matthew 12:35** (NIV) **35** The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

**Daniel 1:15** (NIV) **15** At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.

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