

Scripture Consulting Essentials

August 24, 2020

Proving the Will of God

All who are born of God have many blessings and abilities because of what Jesus Christ has done for them. The spirit born within them is incorruptible seed. It cannot sin. It cannot get sick. It cannot die. The day is coming when they will see similar conditions in their physical and mental well-being. Until then, it is necessary to deal with certain matters in the natural realm.

Romans 12:1-8.

Romans 12:1 and 2 (WT¹):

Therefore, brothers, I exhort you by the compassion of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy [*sanctified*], well-pleasing to God, *which is* your logical divine service [*as sons of God*].

Do not be fashioned by this age, but be transfigured by the renewing of the mind so that you may prove what *is* the good and well-pleasing and mature will of God.

Do not be fashioned by this age.

Galatians 1:4 (WT): “Who gave himself for our sins so that he might rescue us from this present evil age according to the will of God, even our Father.”

We have the many wonderful new realities made available by Jesus Christ’s accomplishments, but we still live in the present evil age. Hence it is necessary for us to choose to not be fashioned by this evil age and the wisdom of this age.

Rather than being fashioned by the thinking of the present times, we should be transfigured by renewing our minds to believe God’s Word and Will, which is described here as good, well-pleasing, and mature. By renewing our minds, we prove the good, well-pleasing, and mature will of God.

Many Christians are not aware of the good, well-pleasing, and mature will of God. They have not read the Scriptures, and they have not renewed their minds in order to prove the will of God. They live with fear, doubt, worry, and uncertainty. In order to prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and mature will of God, we need to know the Word of God and believe it.

Romans 12:3 (WT):

So by the grace that was given to me, I say to everyone among you to not think beyond what you ought to think but to think with sober thinking according as God has distributed the measure of [*the foundation for*] believing to each *of you*.

¹ Scriptures marked WT are taken from the Working Translation in *A Journey through the Acts and Epistles*. Copyright © 2006 by Walter J. Cummins. All rights reserved.

As we continue to study God's Word and to renew our minds, we learn to think like a son of God. Then, when the fashions of this age pass in front of us, we are not enticed, surprised, shaken, confused, or frustrated. Instead, we can deal with such matters having confidence and trust in our heavenly Father.

Romans 12:4-8 (WT):

Even as we have many members in one *physical* body and *as* all members do not have the same function,

so we, the many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another,

having gifts differing according to the grace given to us. If *it is* prophecy, *then let us prophesy* according to the proportion of the believing.

Or if *it is another* ministry, *then let us minister according to the proportion of the believing* in the ministry. Or if *it is* teaching, *then let us teach according to the proportion of the believing* in the teaching.

Or if *it is any other service such as* exhorting . . . in the exhortation; giving . . . in integrity; leading . . . in diligence; showing mercy . . . in cheerfulness.

These are all different functions that members of the one body in Christ may have. We may have different gifts, such as the gift ministries referred to in Ephesians 4, which were given for the equipping of the saints, for the work of service, and for the edifying of the body of Christ. There are other services in the body of Christ. Those may include a service of exhorting, giving, leading, or showing mercy.

The various functions are to help and to bless one another in the body of Christ, and those who serve are to carry out their ministry according to the measure that God has given to believe. By renewing his or her mind, each member in that body may do and say those things that will help and bless others in that body.

Thinking like a son of God

Romans 12:9-21.

Colossians 3:9-17.

Philippians 2:1-13.

These Philippians had already believed in Jesus Christ. They were already enjoying the benefits of that salvation. The salvation referred to in this record was with reference to some kind of deliverance in the physical or mental realm in their time. They were to work out their own deliverance "with fear and trembling."

According to Bishop K.C. Pillai's teaching on the customs in the lands and times of the Bible, the phrase "fear and trembling" was an idiom meaning "reverence and obedience" on the part of obedient servants who did what they were told to do.²

² For further information regarding this idiom, see Bishop K.C. Pillai, *Orientalisms of the Bible, Volume 1* (Fairborn, Ohio: Munkus Publishing Company, Inc., 1969), pp. 27-33.

Psalm 123:2:

Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes *wait* upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us.

Keep your eyes on God with reverence and obedience, knowing that God works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure.

We live in a world that has been cursed since the fall of Adam. God planned for man's deliverance from Satan's dominion, and He achieved it by Jesus Christ's accomplishments. The spirit has been restored by the new birth of spirit. It is perfect and cannot be affected by the world. However, the old bodies are still susceptible to the conditions of the environment, and things like sickness, accidents, disasters, and persecution may occur in our lives. The influences of worldly thinking may also affect our minds, causing us to feel depressed, fearful, angry, or grieved. However, we have the ability to overcome those things.

We nourish the spirit by speaking in tongues. Then we also learn to walk with God by the other manifestations of holy spirit. We nourish our bodies with exercise and with foods that God has created to be received with thanksgiving. We nourish our minds primarily by feeding and exercising our minds with the Word of God.

An essential to living a victorious life today is to not be fashioned to this age but to be transfigured by renewing our minds in order to prove God's good, well-pleasing, and mature will. We learn to think soberly according to God's measure for believing. We look to Him and wait for Him with reverence and obedience. We learn to think like a son of God. Then we enjoy the fellowship with our Father and with His Son Jesus Christ and with one another. This is a living sacrifice holy and well-pleasing to God. It is a joyful walk of proving the will of God.