

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

November 4th

Daily Devotional #35

We Are in the Season of DEDICATION

As We Ask, “What Is GOD Preparing Us/for Us to Do?”

Therefore, I urge you, brothers (and sisters), in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual (or reasonable) act of worship. Do not conform any longer 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.

Romans 12:1–2 (NIV84)

Sunday’s Daily Devotional prompted us to look at the three verses that precede these two “transformative” verses in order to better understand, to have a foundation for, the complete sacrifice Paul is urging the Roman Church – and us – to make. This sacrifice leads to transformation. This transformation seeks to make us into mature, strong, courageous, and focused God-Followers. This transformation happens over a long period of time (it is something of a lifelong transformation). This transformation also happens daily. Every day is a choice – a decision of our will – to either fully follow, or not fully follow our Great and Deserving GOD.

This daily decision of our will is not easy. Satan will fight us every day, every morning, every moment, and at every turn. Our schedules will fill, interruptions will come, distractions will abound, but still the decision of our will we must make. Let’s determine, both as individuals and as Family, that we will make this daily decision of our will to believe and fully follow GOD. Let’s give Him complete permission to guide us, transform us, and empower us.

So, for the next few days (or years!), let’s start our day with a prayer of gratitude, belief, and pursuit of GOD and His will and Kingdom wisdom and work.

I leave you with John Baillie’s Second Morning Prayer: “Continued Dependence Upon You” (see Daily Devotionals #2, #5 & #6 for introduction(s) to Baillie and First Morning, Sixth Morning, and Fifth Morning prayers respectively)...

God my Creator and Redeemer, I may not go forth today except You accompany me with Your blessing. Let not the vigor and freshness of the morning, or the glow of good health, or the present prosperity of my undertakings, deceive me into a false reliance upon my own strength. All these good gifts have come to me from You. They were Yours to give and they are Yours also to curtail. They are not mine to keep; I do but hold them in trust; and only in continued dependence upon You, the Giver, can they be worthily enjoyed.

Let me then put back into Your hand all that You have given me, rededicating to Your service all the powers of my mind and body, all my worldly goods, all my influence with others. All these, O Father, are Yours to use as You will. All these are Yours, O Christ. All these are Yours, O Holy Spirit. Speak in my words today, think in my thoughts, and work in all my deeds. And seeing that it is Your gracious will to make use even of such weak human instruments in the fulfillment of Your mighty purpose for the world, let my life today be the channel through which some little portion of Your divine love and (compassion) may reach the lives that are nearest to my own.

In Your solemn presence, O God, I remember all my friends and neighbors, my fellow townsfolk, and especially the poor within our gates, beseeching You that You would give me grace, so far as in me lies, to serve them in Your name. Amen.