

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

November 2nd

Daily Devotional #33

We Are in the Season of DEDICATION

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

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

*How unsearchable His judgments,
and His paths beyond tracing out!*

“Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been His counselor?”

*“Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay Him?”*

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

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 11:33–12:2 (NIV84)

As we journey through this Season of Dedication, let’s remind ourselves of our context. Our goal throughout this 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting (and beyond) is to “Be Transformed for Kingdom Living”. We are dedicating ourselves to accepting and engaging GOD’s role for us in our homes, in our work places, in our Church Family, in our complete every-moment-of-the-day lives. We are dedicating ourselves to His will, His Kingdom work, His Kingdom identity, His Kingdom life.

We are dedicating ourselves to accept nothing less.

So often when we read Romans 12:1-2, where we get our idea of Christian/spiritual transformation, we concentrate on only on those two verses. It is understandable, after all, for in those two verses we find a lifetime of challenge and journey!

But look, for a meditative moment at the three verses that lead into the “transformation verses.” They are high praise verses (some call it a “doxology”) that act as a transition from one section of Romans to another (much in the same way that Ephesians 3:20-21 act as a transition between Ephesians’ theological overview to its practical living section). However, they are much more than a transition. They also act as an introduction to the transformation verses... a foundation for those verses and our transformation... the “why” of our transformation.

Look deeply at, and take some time – make some time – to reflect on and meditate on Romans 11:33-36. Quietly, and purposefully, still yourself before GOD and slowly read these out loud to Him and to your inner spirit. Do this over and over while you allow the Spirit to pour the meaning and wonder of this high praise, this doxology, over you. Listen, in the Biblical sense, Listen to these words of awe and adoration and praise and dedication.

Then, when you are fully bathed in these words and their ideas, transform them into your words. Make them your own and own them for yourself, for your spirit, for your walk (your way of life). Make them a personal prayer of high praise and dedication.

After you have claimed these words as your own, and worshipped GOD with them and through them, seek to understand them as a preparation for GOD to transform you, and for GOD to begin transforming us – His Family – for Kingdom Living. Begin reprioritizing your life for Kingdom Living. Strip away the excess things that steal time from GOD’s good and pleasing and perfect will is. Destroy the patterns of this world that have slowly, sneakily transferred themselves onto you... change the words you use to kind words, see others for the treasures of Heaven that GOD sees them as, seek to do good to others as GOD as done for you, learn to listen to GOD and sacrifice for the world (your family, your boss, your employees, your teachers, your students, your friends, and yes, even your enemies). Instead of praying once or twice each day, begin praying continuously with your mouth and your ears, being in conversation (and purposefully in the company of) GOD all day long. And use your eyes for His Kingdom Living. Look for the opportunities that are, quite literally, all around you to praise GOD, thank GOD, and in the Name of GOD bless others.

Let’s take this Season of Dedication seriously. And let’s be transformed, individually and together, for GOD’s Kingdom Living!

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*For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever! Amen.*

Romans 11:33-36 (NIV)