

# Romans 12:2 – “All in” for God’s Best!

**Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed  
by the renewing of your mind,  
that you may prove what is that  
good and acceptable and  
will of God.**

**NKJV**

**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.**

**NIV**

## **Wow! We can know what God’s good, pleasing and perfect will is!**

Yep! This is AMAZING! We often overlook this part of the verse because the first half may seem like an impossible obstacle to negotiate. But look at this again. . . God has a way for us to test and prove His good, pleasing and, yes, perfect will for our lives—every part of our lives. WHAT? Think of this in your life. His will for your marriage, job, future and in trials and difficult circumstances can be experienced. God desires to give us the absolute best (Jeremiah 29:11) albeit not how we might define “the best”. As our Creator, who intimately knows us, He longs for us to experience His good, acceptable and perfect will in every area of our lives and relationships.

Unfortunately, to many Christians this is a foreign concept because they are deceived into believing lies that keep them chained or conformed to this world’s philosophies and values causing them to miss out on God’s best and what He wants to give to them.

There is a very real battle to experience God’s best for our lives. I have battled anxiety, pleasing people and self-righteousness in my walk with God. I am constantly amazed at how he continues to use me and am incredibly thankful for all that He has given me. I am still in a daily battle as Satan continues to hurl accusations at me and the world’s philosophies pound at the door of my mind. But God is greater and there have been great changes in my ways of thinking and ability to recognize and combat the strategies of the enemy of my soul. As I continue to lay down my life—go ALL IN with God, he continues to reveal his plans for me! This life of walking by faith is exciting!

## **Conformation vs. Transformation**

This is the crux of our walk with Christ. Our heavenly Father loves us so much! He has called each of us when we were His enemies and delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us through His Son into His kingdom so we can walk in the light as He is in the light—no longer hiding because of sin and shame.

We WERE conformed to the patterns of the world, but our Father’s desire is to see us walk in a NEW LIFE completely transformed from the inside out. As we looked at Romans 12:1 we examined our relationship with God and each of us have to answer the question, “Am I “ALL IN?”” If you answer in the affirmative, “Yes Lord!” He begins a process in your heart and mind in which

you are a participants. In Philippians 2:12-13, Paul challenges the believers to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it IS God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” We are NOT on **our own!** Thank you, Jesus!

## Day 1 & 2: Conformed to this World—or not!

1. Define Conform:
2. When considering this definition, does anything (and I mean anything) immediately come to mind? Jot it down.

So, then the question is—what is “this world”? I am so glad you asked!

3. **Read 1 John 2:15-17** and note the following
  - a. Consequences of loving the world and/or things in the world.
  - b. List “all that is in the world”.
  - c. What is the Contrast in vs 17?
4. **Read James 4:4-5.**  
Describe the relationships in these verses. How important is this “friendship” to God? With what does He equate “friendship with the world?”
5. A Lesson from History: Read Ezekiel 16. Verses 1-14 describe God’s actions and relationship with Israel. **Verses 15-34 tell of Israel’s response** and then their punishment in verse 35-59.

God's heart of restoration in verses 60-63. If time is an issue focus on **the verses in bold**.  
Thoughts:

6. According to **Colossians 2:8**, what can "cheat" us? Ask God if any of these things have cheated you and be specific in defining.
7. **Read Matthew 13:18-23**. What happens in verse 22 and what is the result?
8. So . . . what is tripping you up from God's best? What habits, sins, or thoughts hinder your relationship with Christ? Confess and ask God to cleanse them from your life and mind—be prepared for battle!

**Pray and Surrender:** To be ALL IN, ask God to open the eyes of your heart and mind to know and understand the hope in which He has called you to Him, your inheritance as His daughter and His dynamic (*dunamis*) power that is working in you as you walk in faith trusting Him with your entire life. He wants you to KNOW and experience his good, acceptable and perfect will—for it to be worked out in your life.

## Day 3: Be Transformed

### Be Transformed...

1. Define transformed:

2. Define metamorphosis:

3. Thinking it through:

A pale, sickly woman improves her appearance by putting on concealer and makeup. She appears healthy. Another sickly woman begins eating healthy, nourishing food. Her complexion gradually improves, and her body strengthens.

Which Transformation is a Real Transformation and why? How would this apply to each woman in a spiritual sense?

4. Considering your walk of faith, which kind of transformation would be the pattern you've taken. What has been the outcome? What would you like changed?

5. Into what are we being transformed? Look up **2 Corinthians 3:18**. Write out all you discover.

6. What future transformation do eagerly await according to **Philippians 3:20-21**?

## Day 4: Be Transformed How?

. . . by the renewing of the mind.

The question which begs to be asked is. “How can our minds be renewed?”

The transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly is a profound change in its form. The outward change which takes place during metamorphosis results from an organic change from within. The caterpillar does not just put on a costume and try to act like a butterfly—it becomes a butterfly. The caterpillar just continues eating and is nourished by the food. As it grows it naturally undergoes a complete change becoming a butterfly.

1. So . . . what do we need to “eat”?

What do you discover in the following verses and the results?

- John 6:32-35
  - John 8:37-39
  - John 8:31-32
  - 1 Peter 2:2-3
  - Mathew 7:24-27
  - Ephesians 5:25-27
2. Describe *the transformation of the mind* that takes place in us when we go “ALL IN” with Jesus according to **Ephesians 4:17-24**. Be detailed in your analysis.

## Day 5: The Proof: Knowing God's Will!

The eating of the word—the living word—taking in Jesus as our daily bread is our sustenance which leads to a complete transformation in our thinking which we then live out through our words and actions.

As our mind is transformed, we are become conformed (*summorphos*) to the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29) vs. being conformed (*suschematizo*) to the world. *Summorphos* indicates we have the same form as Jesus—note the *morphos* part of this Greek word. On the other hand, *suschematizo* means “to fashion oneself” or “to be fashioned.”

Jesus knew God's will and submitted himself to it. If we are willing, we can have the mind of Christ to do the same and we will also share in His glory and be glorified. (Philippians 2:5-9)

As we continue in Romans, God speaks plainly through Paul, His desires for us in our attitudes and behavior. He also explains what it means to “put – off” the *flesh (the old man)* and “put-on” the Spirit (new man) in Ephesians 5, Colossians 3 and Galatians 5.

Take time to pray and ask the Lord to speak to you about places in your life in which His will can be accomplished. This could be in relation to habits, finances, relationships or . . . Jot down what He whispers to your heart. Search out His Word for His Will then test it! Discover the joy of walking in His will—it is awesome and amazing!