

WEEK 7 DAY 5

MAIN POINT:

You are always being shaped by something. Allow God to influence you most.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

(Romans 12:2)

WHAT IS INFLUENCING YOU MOST?

PRAYER: Dear God, help me to see the ways you want to transform my life. Show me where I conform to what the world tells me.

Do you ever find yourself asking what God’s will (or desire) is for your life? Or do you wonder if your actions are in line with God’s plan for you? Part of how Scripture answers questions like these is by communicating what God’s will is not.

It is not God’s will for you to be controlled by your pain or coping mechanisms. It is not God’s will for you to live in fear or addiction. Romans 8:6 says, “to set the mind on the flesh is death...” This means that living according to your own sinful desires (or being “conformed to this world”) will lead to hurt and separation from God. This is not God’s will for you.

“Influence” has been defined as the capacity of something to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of an individual. So, what is influencing you? Alcohol? Drugs? Relationships? Fear and anxiety? Pleasure or comfort? Others’ opinions of you?

Alcohol, drugs, sex, and all other worldly pleasures are temporary. If you make fleeting pleasures your goal, they will ultimately fail you. Temporary things will never satisfy the eternal needs of your soul. Thankfully, God has something better for you. God, himself, wants to be what influences you. He desires to transform your heart and mind, so that your eternal needs can be satisfied. The second part of Romans 8:6 says, “...but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”

God transforms you as you spend time with him. James 4:8 says “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” Transformation begins when you connect with God, meditate on the Bible, and let him become your main influence. When you allow God to influence your thoughts, he renews your mind to delight more in eternal pleasures and to desire less the empty promises of this broken world.

God’s will for you is far less about a particular series of decisions. It’s far less about what job you should pursue, or where you should live; It is about the state of your heart and mind. God’s wants you to know him, to think about and delight in the same things he does—eternal things that lead to life and satisfy your eternal needs.

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APPLICATION: Write down one thing that consistently draws you closer to God and one thing that consistently distracts you from God. Tell these things to a friend and pray together that God would continue to transform your heart and mind to know and delight in his will.