

Road Trip Devotion - Romans 12:1-2
by Sandy Kafka, Children's Ministry Pastor

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual 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; NIV)

The final verses of chapter 11 were praise to God for his great wisdom and knowledge in extending his mercy to us. Now Paul tells us what we are to do in response to God's mercy: surrender ourselves completely to God and let him transform us by renewing our minds.

Maybe you had the same experience I did when I publicly accepted Jesus' gift of mercy and was baptized as a child. I was so relieved and felt forgiven. That lasted about an hour until I told a lie to my mother. I was horrified. I thought that accepting Jesus and being baptized would make me a new person and would result in me never sinning again.

Unfortunately for me, it was years later before someone explained to me that our life on this earth will always be a process of moving towards being renewed and becoming like Jesus. Every moment of every day I have to make the choice to continue to surrender to God and let the Spirit continue the work of transforming me. This is the transformation process that makes me able to do God's will. We can be "led by the Spirit" as we cooperate with his transforming power. From this point Paul begins to show us what God's will is – loving and serving others.