

A pair of hands is clasped in prayer, with fingers interlaced, positioned above an open book. The book's pages are filled with dense, small text, likely a religious or legal document. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the hands and the text on the pages against a dark background.

MAKING OUR PLANS



INTRODUCTION:

James 4:13-17, 13) Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” – 14) yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.



INTRODUCTION:

15) Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16) As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17) So, whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

A hand is shown holding a small, light-colored object, possibly a seed or a piece of wood, against a dark background. The hand is positioned at the top center of the frame. Below the hand, there is a black rectangular box containing white text. The background of the entire image is a blurred, open book with yellowed pages.

INTRODUCTION:

Acts 15:36, And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.”

A hand is shown in the upper center of the frame, holding a small, light-colored object between the thumb and index finger. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the texture of the skin and the object. Below the hand, a black rectangular box contains white text. The background of the entire image is a blurred, open book with yellowed pages.

INTRODUCTION:

Acts 18:20-21, 20) When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. 21) But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus.



INTRODUCTION:

1 Corinthians 16:5-9, 5) I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, 6) and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go.



INTRODUCTION:

7) For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. 8) But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, 9) for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.



I. SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL:

Acts 18:21, But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus.



I. SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL:

1 Corinthians 16:7, For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.

A pair of hands is clasped in prayer, with fingers interlaced, positioned above an open Bible. The Bible is open to a page with dense text, and the hands are centered over the gutter of the book. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the pages of the Bible.

I. SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL:

Ephesians 5:17, Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

A pair of hands is clasped in prayer, with fingers interlaced. The hands are positioned in the upper center of the frame. Below the hands, an open Bible is visible, with its pages spread out. The text on the pages is mostly illegible due to a shallow depth of field and a dark, moody lighting. The overall background is dark, with the hands and the Bible providing the primary visual elements.

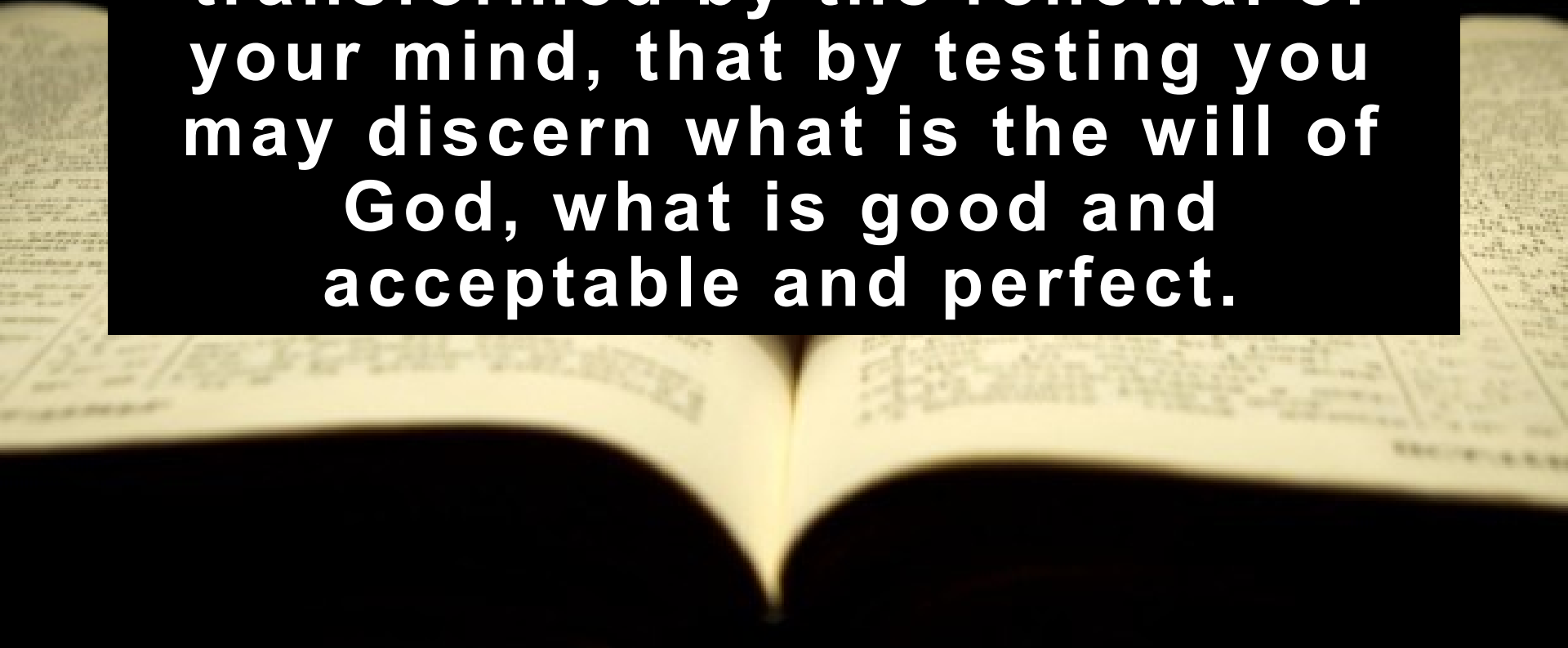
I. SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL:

Colossians 1:9, And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,



I. SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL:

Romans 12:2, 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.



II. IGNORING GOD'S WILL:

Psalms 39:5-6, 5) Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Selah. 6) Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!



II. IGNORING GOD'S WILL:

Psalms 39:11, When you discipline a man with rebukes for sin, you consume like a moth what is dear to him; surely all mankind is a mere breath! Selah.

II. IGNORING GOD'S WILL:

James 1:10-11, 10) and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11) For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a pen, poised to write on an open book. The book's pages are filled with text, and the lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the paper and the skin of the hand. The background is dark, making the book and hand the central focus.

II. IGNORING GOD'S WILL:

Job 9:25-26, 25) My days are swifter than a runner; they flee away; they see no good. 26) They go by like skiffs of reed, like an eagle swooping on the prey.

A pair of hands is clasped in prayer, with fingers interlaced, positioned above an open Bible. The Bible is open to a page with dense text, and the hands are centered over the gutter of the book. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the pages of the Bible against a dark background.

II. IGNORING GOD'S WILL:

Job 14:1, Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble.



II. IGNORING GOD'S WILL:

1 John 2:17, And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, light-colored object, possibly a piece of paper or a small object, over an open book. The book's pages are visible, showing some text and a table-like structure. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the hand and the book.

CONCLUSION:

A. How do we make our plans?

B. What about your “plans” for eternity?

C. Have you done “as” the Lord wills?