

LIVE IN  
*God's Will*

A 15 DAY  
DEVOTIONAL JOURNEY TOWARD  
UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WILL  
FOR YOUR LIFE

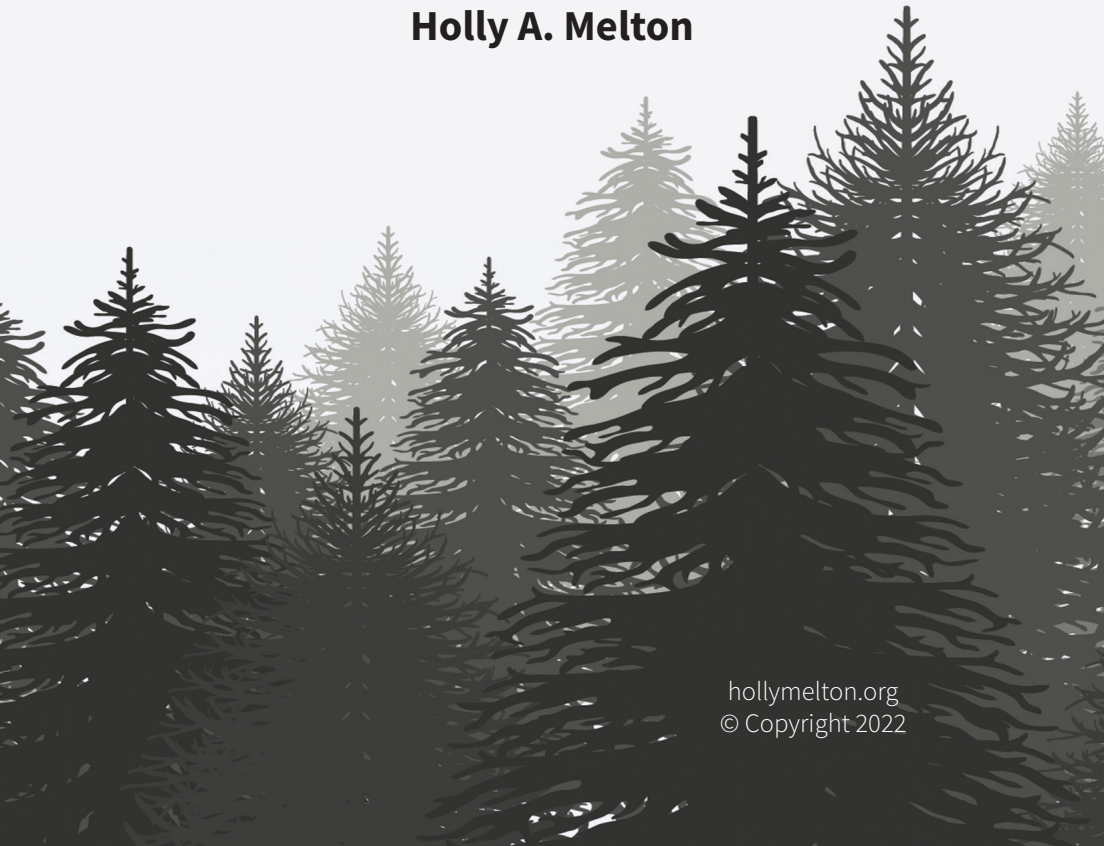
HOLLY A MELTON



# **Live in God's Will**

## **Devotional**

**Holly A. Melton**





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# **PART 1**

**WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US TO BECOME?**



**DAY 1****GOD'S WILL FOR US IS TO BECOME SEXUALLY PURE**

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**Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 ESV**

<sup>3</sup>For this is the **will of God**, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup>not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup>For God has not called us to impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup>Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not man, but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

**Devotional**

Who am I? Who does God want me to become in life? What is my purpose and calling? These are all questions that boil down to understanding the more important question, “What’s God’s will for my life?”

When we think about who we are to become, we may think about vocation, position, or our roles in life: teacher, engineer, doctor, mother, father, pastor. God does not care about our career options and titles. God cares about our character. He cares about who we are on the inside. Our character is who we are, not the roles or positions we have in life.

God’s will for you is your sanctification. The generic meaning of sanctification is “to be in the state of proper functioning.” To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or item apart for the use intended by its designer. For instance, a pen is sanctified when it’s used for writing. Eyeglasses are sanctified when they are on your eyes for

seeing. In the same way, a person is sanctified when he or she lives according to God's design and purpose found in the Bible.

There are two aspects of sanctification. First, it's the cleansing or purifying ourselves from sin. God's will for us is to purge sin out of our lives. Second, sanctification is the growth of righteousness in our attitudes and behaviors. God's will for us is to become more like Jesus in how we feel, think, and act.

God knows one of the hardest areas to abstain from is in the areas of sexual temptation. He wants us to learn how to control our bodies and not give in to its impure desires. He's saying to stay away from any sin related to sex. How far away, you might ask? Far enough away to be separated...from all sexual sin. He wants us to pursue purity and keep sex inside of marriage only. He wants us to pursue purity with our eyes and not to lust at others or look at porn. He wants us to pursue purity so that we can honor our bodies and the bodies of others.

We are all sexually broken people. We each need to continue to be intentional in pursuing sexual wholeness in our lives. We need to listen to the conviction of the Holy Spirit in our lives and admit where we have given in to our flesh instead of saying no to sexual temptation. Removing these sexual sins is the only way the great Healer can come and restore our lives. Only then, can we become who He wants us to be: sanctified individuals, ready and equipped to do His will.

God's will for us is to pursue holiness by pursuing sexual wholeness. This is who He wants us to become. Let us resolve today to pursue God's will for who He wants us to be: sanctified, holy, sexually whole individuals, that are set aside to be a part of His higher purposes.



### **Question to Consider**

What area of your body do you need to grow in holiness and sanctification?

### **Prayer**

Lord, help me to not become complacent in my walk with You, but to strive to become more and more holy each day. Help me by the power of Your Spirit to control my body in holiness and honor. Help me to hear the conviction of the Holy Spirit in my life so that I can continue to become more sanctified on this side of heaven. Amen.

## GOD'S WILL FOR US IS TO BECOME A LIVING SACRIFICE

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### Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1-2 ESV

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>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.

### Devotional

God wants us to present our bodies to Him as a living sacrifice. That means obedience will feel painful at times. Our bodies will try to squirm off the altar of submission to run to our self-gratifying desires. No doubt, abstaining from sexual sin is a sacrifice, but it is also a form of worship. We are choosing God and obedience over our flesh and sin. We are accepting His will over our will.

God's will for us is to engage in what is good, acceptable, and perfect. We learn what that is by spending time reading and apply the Word to our lives. The world will tell us it is reasonable to get drunk on the weekends or your 21st birthday. It's normal to have sex if you're dating. It's normal to live together if you're in a serious relationship. It's normal to look at porn. We need to ask God to renew our minds according to the values of the Bible because only then can we walk in the will of God.

Jesus understands what it means to be a living sacrifice. Every day of His 33 years on earth, He chose to say no to temptation and yes to God's will for Him. If He didn't present His body as a living sacrifice first, He could not have fulfilled

God's will for Him to be our final sacrifice so that we could have a loving, intimate relationship with our Creator. Just like Jesus, we must choose to live a sacrificial life to be in the will of God and for Him to use our lives for His purposes.

Jesus didn't just save us so, one day, we'd be forgiven and perfect in heaven. He wants us to set ourselves apart from the world. He wants us to pursue righteous living. He wants us to continually search our hearts and see if there are any areas we need His help to purge out and transform us in. Here are some very real and challenging examples that we need to wrestle with: He wants us to love our enemies. People who hate us! He wants us to forgive everyone for anything. ANYTHING! He wants us to believe the best in others and not gossip, slander, or judge. He wants us to serve and be humble. He wants us to put others' needs in front of our own. (Try marriage out to grow in that one!) These are really hard, right? Sanctification is painful. It's like open soul surgery with no drugs to numb the pain when we realize we are just broken, sin-filled people, desperately in need of Him to change us.

Sometimes, when we think about pursuing holiness, we think about following oppressive rules, not our character development. These expectations of God are not to oppress us but to grow us to have more of His heart and mind. We are all on a journey of purging sin out of our lives. There are days we obey, and there are days we sin. What God cares about is the attitude of our hearts. Let us commit today to present our bodies as living sacrifices and to renew our minds with the Word of God so that we can become who God wants us to be.

## **Questions to Consider**

What can you do to intentionally renew your mind with God's Word?

What might God be asking you to sacrifice to pursue holiness?

## **Prayer**

Lord, thank You for Your mercy in this process of becoming holy, good, acceptable, and perfect. I want to surrender to You areas in my life where I have not honored You with my body (what I've watched, read, listened to, what my hands do, what my mouth says). God show me what areas of my mind need to be transformed. Show me what things of this world are enticing me away from becoming more like Jesus. Amen.



What does it look like to live in God's will? Who does He want us to become? What does He want us to do? How can living in His will bring us hope, freedom and peace? This 15-day devotional will take you on a journey to dig deeper into God's Word and deeper into your own life to know for certain you are living in His will today.

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**HOLLY A MELTON** is a wife, mother, speaker, author and ministry coach. She has served in ministry with Cru since 1999. Her passion is to help train and disciple others in the Word of God and how to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit so that they can impact the world around them.

