

Pray The Word

Romans 12:1-2

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PREPARED BY MAJOR SANDRA BUDDEN



CANDIDATES
Canada & Bermuda

Enter His Presence

Lord, my heart is not proud;
my eyes are not haughty.
I don't concern myself with matters too great
or too awesome for me to grasp.
Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself,
like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk.
Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me.
O _____ (insert your name), put your hope in the Lord—
now and always.

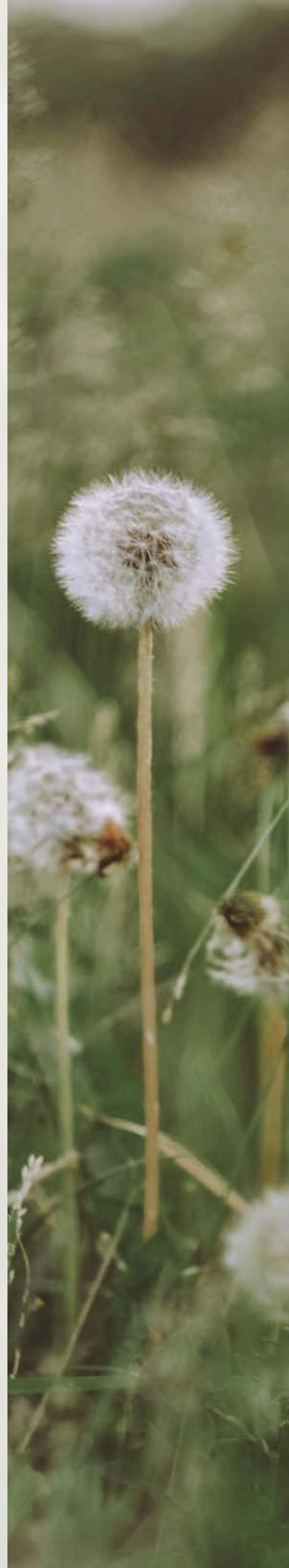
Psalms 131 (NLT)

Sit in Silence for One Minute

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: Welcome, Holy Spirit
Exhale: Renew my mind

Breathe this prayer by reciting the words 4-5 times.



Read Romans 12:1-2

Read this passage slowly, allowing the words to penetrate your mind.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Pause for a moment of silence as these words sink into your mind.

Read Romans 12:1-2 Again

As you read the passage a second time, pause after each phrase, allowing the words to sink into your heart.

Is there a word or a phrase that catches your attention or shimmers for you?

Read it again, pause after each phrase and ponder what Paul meant; what is the meaning underneath the words. Ask yourself this question:

“What does God expect of me right here, right now?”





Let's Break It Down Into Phrases

“ON THE BASIS OF GOD’S MERCY”

Consider all that God done, not what we do. Take a few minutes to journal all that comes to your mind; make a list. Nothing is too small or too big to write. Thank Him for the gift of salvation, through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Thank Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who anoints us with His presence.

“PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE”

God desires our whole lives – time, talent and treasure. The words of two songs come to me: *“Lord, Thou art questioning Lovest Thou me; Master Thou knowest my answer must be. But since love’s value is proved by loves test; I will surrender the dearest and best”*. These words were the challenge and the surrender of my life into my Officership calling. At that time, 33 years ago, the dearest and the best were our children. The other song is more modern - *“I Surrender” by Hillsong*. In recent years the words of this song have been the prayer of an ongoing surrender of my life – *“here I am down on my knees again surrendering all.”*

A living sacrifice brings the image of an ongoing daily offering and surrender of ourselves to God. “Thank you, Father, that my life sits within the greater tapestry of your Church and your story. I choose to surrender again all that I have, all that I am and all that I could do for you. Speak to me and through me. Direct my life and my community to serve your plans and purposes.” (Tyler Staton, Lectio365)

What does surrendering **ALL** mean for you? Surrendering your career, your dreams and ambitions, your family, your children, or your plans?



Let's Break It Down Into Phrases (cont'd)

“HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD”

A deep calling to a life of holiness. What does that look like to you? A life that embodies the fruit of the Spirit and the teachings of Jesus.

“REASONABLE ACT OF WORSHIP”

Living for God every day in every area of our lives, not just on Sunday but every day – at home, at school, at work, in community and at church. It means living like Jesus in every situation and every relationship.

“DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS AGE”

Be shaped and guided by God's Word and His Truth. Stand firm in your faith and trust in the Word of God as your guiding light.

“BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND”

- Live life it matters.
- Fill your mind with godly things.
- Spend time cultivating your spiritual life. *“Remain in me as I also remain in you”* (John 15:4 NLT).
- Incorporate spiritual practices into your life: Scripture reading, Corporate worship, Accountability with trusted spiritual friends, Silence and Solitude, Listening Prayer, Lectio Divina, Breathe Prayers, Nature Walks, etc.

As you meditate on these phrases and discern God's voice, rest in the good, pleasing and perfect will of God for you.

Read Again and Ponder

Read the passage again and ponder the question: "What does God expect of me right here, right now?"

Trevor Hudson shares these words: *"I know that the joyful freedom of being able to abandon myself in love and service will come only with this complete self-surrender. Lord, help me want to know that Your love and grace is enough for me...that I may be set free to trust You with all of my life."* (Seeking God, p.187-188)

Enter into a moment of silence with this Breath Prayer:

Inhale: *Speak, Holy Spirit*
Exhale: *I Am Listening*

Prayer of Surrender

"Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and all my will – all that I have and possess. You, Lord, have given all that to me. I now give it back to You, O Lord. All of it is Yours. Dispose of it according to Your will. Give me love of Yourself along with Your grace, for that is enough for me." (Trevor Hudson, Seeking God p.198)

