

Submitting to God's Will

To submit to God's will is to willingly and joyfully surrender our own desires, plans, and understanding to His authority. It is an act of trust rooted in the belief that God is a loving Father who knows what is best for us. This surrender is not a passive resignation but an active, daily practice of obedience that aligns our heart and actions with His revealed will.

Acknowledging God's wisdom

Submission to God's will begins with humility, recognizing that His wisdom, knowledge, and power far exceed our own. This looks like:

Trusting God over our own understanding. When faced with a difficult decision or confusing circumstances, we choose to believe that God sees the bigger picture. As Proverbs 3:5-6 advises, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight".

Embracing the mystery. Submission often requires us to live with uncertainty, trusting that some answers will come in time, and others may remain beyond our grasp. We don't need to understand every detail of His plan to know that we are safe in His hands.

Choosing obedience over self-will

True submission is demonstrated through our choices and actions. It means choosing to follow God's commands, even when they conflict with our personal desires. This looks like:

Acting on God's Word. When the Bible gives direct guidance, we move from intellectual agreement to active application. This is the difference between knowing and doing. For example, submitting to God involves practical actions like giving thanks in all circumstances, even painful ones (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Serving with humility. In relationships and daily interactions, we can submit to God by putting others' needs before our own and serving with a humble heart.

Praying "not my will, but yours be done." In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus demonstrated the ultimate act of submission by praying this prayer. When we face our own moments of immense difficulty, we can take our requests to God while still affirming our desire for His will to be done above all.

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Trusting God in all circumstances

A submitted life is characterized by a deep trust that God is working all things together for good, even when we can't see how. This looks like:

Letting go of control. When unexpected challenges or disappointments occur, we resist the urge to control everything. Instead, we hand our worries and burdens over to God, trusting Him with the outcome.

Finding peace in His timing. Submission gives us the ability to have peace and calmness when things don't go as we expected. We find rest not in our own efforts but in trusting that God is in control.

Rejoicing in God's sovereignty. Biblical characters like the apostles rejoiced in their suffering, recognizing God's authority and control even in persecution (Acts 5:41). Their example shows that a surrendered heart finds joy not in perfect circumstances, but in the peace of God's presence.