

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.

Submitting to God

(A Structured Approach)

This 7-day plan provides a structured approach to submitting to God's will through prayer, scripture, and reflection. Submission is not a single action but an ongoing practice of releasing personal control and trusting in God's plan for your life.

Preparation for the week

- Establish a routine:
 - Designate a specific time and space each day for prayer and reading your Bible.
- Prepare your heart:
 - Recognize that God's plan is ultimately good, even if the path is difficult or uncomfortable.
- Acknowledge your intent:
 - Remember that your purpose is to align your heart with God's, not to manipulate Him into fulfilling your own desires.

Day 1: Laying down your will

Scripture: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5–6).

Reflection: Consider areas where you tend to rely on your own understanding or control outcomes. Acknowledge that you do not have all the answers and that God's ways are higher than your own.

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, I confess that I often lean on my own wisdom. I surrender my desire for control and humbly ask you to direct my paths. Help me to trust you completely, even when I don't understand the way forward."

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Day 2: Seeking divine wisdom

Scripture: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

Reflection: Identify a specific decision or challenge you are facing. Instead of worrying, focus on asking God for wisdom. Realize that seeking His counsel is an act of trust.

Prayer: "Lord, I need your wisdom regarding [name your situation]. Guide my thoughts and reveal your perspective to me. I trust that you will provide the clarity I need."

Day 3: Aligning with God's Word

Scripture: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Reflection: God's will is most clearly revealed through the Bible. Dedicate time to reading Scripture today, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal how the passages apply to your life. Take notes on what you learn.

Prayer: "Holy Spirit, open my eyes to your truth as I read your Word. Shine a light on my path and help me understand what you are trying to teach me today. Help me to not just be a hearer of your Word, but a doer."

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Day 4: Embracing humility and obedience

Scripture: "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

Reflection: Humbling yourself before God is a prerequisite for submission. Consider where pride or stubbornness may be blocking you from God's will.

Prayer: "God, help me to walk in humility. Forgive me for my pride and for wanting my way instead of yours. Strengthen me to resist temptation and obey your commands. I choose to submit my life to you."

Day 5: Abandoning the outcome

Scripture: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Reflection: Submitting to God means letting go of your need to control the results. Trust that God's purpose is for your ultimate good, even when the immediate situation is difficult.

Prayer: "Lord, I release my grip on the outcome of [name your situation]. I choose to believe that you are working all things together for my good and for your purpose. Help me to find peace in your sovereignty."

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Day 6: Seeking godly counsel

Scripture: "Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life" (Proverbs 19:20).

Reflection: God often speaks through trusted, mature Christians. Seek out a pastor, mentor, or friend for prayer and wisdom regarding a decision or struggle you are facing.

Prayer: "Father, thank you for placing godly people in my life. Give me the humility to listen to their counsel and the discernment to know if it aligns with your will. Thank you for using others to guide me."

Day 7: Trusting God's timing

Scripture: "He has made everything beautiful in its time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Reflection: Submitting to God's will often means waiting for His timing, not your own. Patience is a key component of surrender. Reflect on how God has been faithful to you in the past.

Prayer: "God, thank you for the promise that your timing is perfect. Help me to be patient as I wait for you to act. Calm my anxieties and replace my impatience with a peaceful and trusting heart."