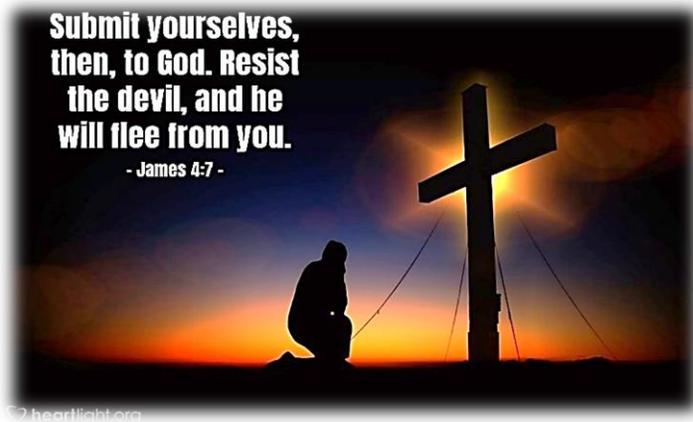


Seek Submission to the Will of God



And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive, and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long suffering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times (Alma 5:39).

God's authority as ruler and sovereign power over all is established in the word of God. The names and titles of God tell us who He is, and that He does have authority over us. The Hebrew name **Elohim** means powerful Creator, Governor, the One in Control. It means God's sovereignty over everything in the heavens above and the earth below. The Hebrew name **Adonia**, also means sovereign God, Lord of all.

One of the Hebrew words for God's authority denotes His splendor, His majesty, His power or vigor, (*hode*). There is another Hebrew word for authority it means 'hand'. We are under the hand of God. His hand is over us, guiding us, ruling us. We are in His hand, (*yad*). The four and twenty elders in revelations declared His majesty when they fell down and worshiped Him saying, ***"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (Revelation 4:11)."***

God also declared His authority through the words of Isaiah when He said: ***I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God besides me;***

I girded thee, though thou hast not known me; That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil; I the Lord do all these things (Isaiah 45:5).

God is our supreme authority because He is our Creator and sustainer. We are His dependent creatures. Mosiah reminds us of our place before God as one of His children: ***But if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father (Mosiah 1:120).***

So, are we really willing to submit ourselves to God as a child to his father? Submission is more than bowing down before God, it is yielding our hearts to Him and being willing to do all He has asked of us. It is moving out in service even though it takes great sacrifice to do so. It is a willingness to obey Him and say, "Thy Will Be done," and mean it, knowing God always has our best interest at heart.

Jesus declared: *For I can of mine own self do nothing; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father who hath sent me (John 5:31).* Jesus is our example and when He declares that He does not seek His own will but God's will, how can we do anything less. **We must ask ourselves = Do we seek to live out the will of God in our lives? Are we submissive to God? Do we yield our hearts to God?**

Mary is a good example of one who yielded her heart to God, even when what was asked of her could have led to her being stoned to death. ***And Mary said, Behold the handmade of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her (Luke 1:38).***

What if Enoch had rejected his calling? He did question God but then he believed and obeyed. ***And the Lord said unto Enoch, Go forth, and do as I have commanded thee, and no man shall pierce thee. Open thy mouth, and it shall be filled, and I will give thee utterance; for all flesh is in my hands, and I will do as seemeth me good. Say unto this***

people, choose ye this day to serve the Lord God who made you...Enoch went forth in the land, among the people...testifying against their works (Genesis 6:33-39). He yielded his heart, he went forth, he obeyed.

What if Peter and Andrew had refused to leave their nets? *And they, believing on his words, left their net, and straightway followed him (Matthew 4:19).*

What about us today? Are we willing to go forth doing all that God has called us to do? Are we willing to submit to the will of the Father? *Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind, and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day (Doctrine & Covenants 4:1b).* Again, ask yourselves = Am I willing to submit to God and serve with all my heart, might, mind and strength? Am I ready to yield my heart to God? Am I ready to say “Thy Will Be done” even in difficult circumstances? These are questions we must ask ourselves if we are going to grow in love and obedience truly becoming submissive to God’s will.

Not only must we be submissive in answering God’s call to love Him and serve Him but we must be submissive in all areas of our lives. This can be very challenging indeed as we have such a limited view compared to God. Mosiah reminded us of our duty when he said: *Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things both in heaven and in earth; Believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; Believe that man doth not comprehend all things which the Lord can comprehend (Mosiah 2:13-15).* There are times we cannot comprehend the workings of God and we must just trust and believe in His goodness and mercy. Trust and Pray, “Thy will be done.” Job expressed this concept when he said, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him (Job 13:15).”*



A Personal Testimony of Submission

Thy Will Be Done

A dear lady in the church, named Vera, shared a very personal testimony with me one summer afternoon. Vera was older, closer to my mother’s age than mine and a godly woman. But her testimony was one of failure on her part to submit herself to God’s will. I later learned that she had never shared this testimony with anyone in her family. I may have been the only person she ever told this to but I also know she was impressed to share it with me under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Vera told me that, when her son James was a young boy, he fell ill with meningitis. This was in the 40’s and there were no antibiotics to speak of, nothing available to fight off this terrible infection of the brain. The doctor said that James was dying and would not live out the day. All of his bodily systems were in the process of shutting down. Vera said, “Well I was not going to have that happen and I went in a separate room and prayed. I told God that He could not take my son. I demanded that God heal James and told Him that if he did not heal James, I would cut Him out of my life. I would never love Him or serve Him nor would His name ever cross my lips again. I demanded in the strongest terms that He heal my son.”

Vera went on to say that when she went back into James’s room he had started to improve and shortly, to the Doctors amazement, was completely restored to good health. She thought she had done a good thing but as the years rolled by and James entered into young adulthood, he began to change. He became a rebellious and bitter individual. He turned against the church and his family. He became an atheist, denying the existence of God. He even hated the government and became an anarchist seeking to destroy our nation.

He told Vera that he hated her and never wanted to see her again. He was especially cruel telling her that he would make sure that she would die without ever seeing him again. She had not seen nor heard from him in years. The only news she had, was through her daughter, with whom he did have spasmodic communication. He never married, he was consumed with anger and bitterness and at that time he lived in New York City and had written his sister saying that he had no real life and his only friends were the rats that came into his one room apartment at night and he would feed them.

Vera wept and said, “I have come to realize that God knew best. I now know there are many things worse than physical death. God knew what the future held for James and when the meningitis came upon my little boy, God tried to bless him by taking him home to be with Him, but I rebelled. God was trying to be kind and merciful by taking James home to heaven but I demanded my own way. I have wept many tears and have repented of this great sin.

She ended saying, “Pat always be willing to pray, “Thy Will Be Done.” I wish so many times that I had placed Jim in God’s arms and prayed, “Thy Will Be Done.” Vera died without ever seeing her son again. He no longer has any contact with any family members.

I thought, what a sad testimony. I hardly knew what to say but I told her I was sure God had forgiven her. About 2 months later our daughter was diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor. We were told that it was big and deep within her brain and was inoperable. Her life would be very short. I was overcome with extreme anxiety and came to a new understanding of Vera’s dilemma. I too wanted to demand that God heal my daughter. It is extremely hard at times to submit ourselves to the will of God. I struggled mightily, but finally was able to pray for “God’s will to be done”. I prayed, “If you take her Lord, it will slay me but I place her into your tender care and I will trust you.” I pleaded with God to heal her but I also said, “May your will be done and if you do take her, I will still love you, serve you and follow you. I will still testify of your goodness all the days of my life.” This was such a hard prayer to pray, it was not easy to be submissive to God’s will.

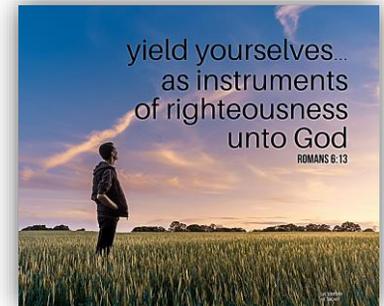
We were greatly blessed. To the doctor’s amazement, our daughter’s tumor shrank and moved making it operable, and we rejoiced. She had surgery and although the tumor was malignant, she made a complete recovery. It indeed was a miracle. There is great power in the prayer of submission and relinquishment. I have to say though, that when you pray for God’s will, you have to be ready to accept God’s will. We have prayed this same prayer over others we loved and the Lord took them home to be with Him. To be able to submit you must trust and have faith, faith that God is sovereign and does know best. I am so thankful that Vera shared her testimony with me and I share it with you in hopes that faced with such a dilemma it will help you also.

Digging Deeper

True Submission Means Yielding Our Hearts Unto God

Ray Zinser, in his book “*The Word of Christ*,” (p. 274) says: “We find numerous references to ‘humility’ in the scriptures and this quality is a requirement for celestial living...**Humility is a submission to God and his plan of salvation through the word of Christ.** Natural man sees himself as the center of the universe while spiritual man sees God as the center. “Natural” man becomes boastful, self-centered and egotistical, believing that he knows of himself and believing that he achieves of himself. “Spiritual” man worships and adores God which is celestial orientation. True humility is vibrant in this celestial commitment.

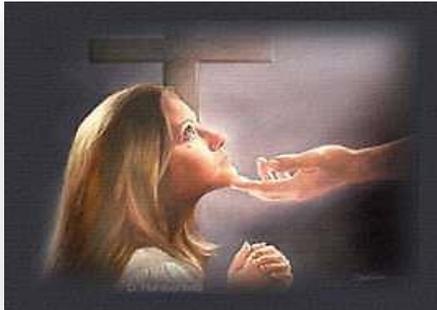
Humility was demonstrated most dramatically in the life and ministry of Christ and provides an eternal sense of perspective. **It is expressed in our yielding our hearts completely to God...which allows us to be ‘begotten sons and daughters of God.’** *Nevertheless, they did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their*



hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God (Helaman 2:31).

The meekness of humility is a submission to God, but it is also a dynamic assertiveness in love and empathy...humility allows us to offer ourselves in sacrificial service to God through a broken heart and contrite spirit. Our humility allows us to pray continually for support from God and the invisible worlds rather than thinking we can do it all through the ‘life of the mind’ or by ourselves.” *But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name, and watch and pray continually that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long suffering; having faith on the Lord (Alma 10:28).*

Action Section



Keep Your Eye Single to The Glory of God

Brother Zinser, along with submission and having a willing heart, also speaks of: Keeping an Eye Single to the Glory of God. He says, “In time and eternity each person needs to place God as the primary object of love and affection with evidence of this love expressed in heart, mind, and actions”.

And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you, and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things (Doctrine & Covenants 85:18a).

Zinser says = “Living in a continual thankful and appreciative attitude results from having an eye single to the glory of God. If we truly love God, we praise him and rejoice...continually during each day. This provides us a basic humility and perspective. It prevents self-worship and self-glorification and constantly stimulates worshipping and glorifying God = Leading to a humble attitude and submission to God, who is our supreme creator and ruler.

Action for the Month = Keeping an Eye Single to the Glory of God through daily = Praise and Thanksgiving.

When we keep our eyes on God we will see and feel the majesty of His Glory and the grand scope of His work. We will feel humble to participate in His work in the latter day. We will gladly place our egos and vain ambitions on the alter of sacrifice. We will acknowledge as Moses did: *Now, for this cause, I know that man is nothing, which thing I never had supposed; but now mine eyes have beheld God (Doctrine & Covenants 22:7b).*

As soldiers in the army of God, let us keep our eyes upon our great God who is our Commander and Chief, and go forward with Him. Victory and His Kingdom Awaits. Victory comes as we Keep Our Eyes Single to God’s Glory!

Praise and Thanksgiving will help you keep your eyes upon God. This is your goal for the month = Daily, even many times a day = Praise and Thank God = Keep Your Eye Single to His Glory = Not Your Own=This will help you to keep Him in His proper place and = Submit Your Will to Him.

God, today I submit
my mind, my eyes,
my mouth, my ears,
my hands, my feet,
my heart, my whole
life to you.
Use me for your purposes!