

# Finding True Direction: The Path of Submission

In a world full of conflicting voices and competing ideologies, how can we be sure we're on the right path? This question plagues many of us as we navigate life's complexities. We often hear phrases like "follow your heart" or "do what feels right to you." But what if our hearts and feelings are leading us astray?

The Bible offers a sobering perspective on this matter in Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." This verse challenges us to reconsider our assumptions about right and wrong, and to look beyond our own limited understanding.

Our hearts, as Jeremiah 17:9-10 reminds us, are "deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." If we can't even trust our own hearts, how can we navigate the complexities of life? The answer lies not in following our own instincts, but in submitting to a higher authority.

Submission is a concept that often makes us uncomfortable. We live in a culture that celebrates independence and self-reliance. Yet, true freedom and peace come not from asserting our own will, but from aligning ourselves with God's perfect will.

Consider the great figures of the Bible. Moses initially resisted God's call to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, feeling inadequate and unprepared. Joseph endured slavery and imprisonment, circumstances no one would choose for themselves. Jonah tried to run from God's command to preach to Nineveh. Paul faced imprisonment and hardship as he spread the Gospel. None of these men wanted the paths set before them, yet their submission to God's will led to extraordinary outcomes that changed the course of history.

Submission isn't just about obeying rules; it's about renovating our minds and transforming our very beings. Romans 12:1-2 calls us to "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

This transformation is likened to a caterpillar becoming a butterfly – a complete metamorphosis that leaves us unrecognizable from our former selves. It's not a superficial change, but a deep, internal renovation that strips away our old patterns of thinking and behaving.

The early church grew rapidly when believers "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). Their submission to God and to the leaders He had appointed created an environment where miracles happened and lives were changed daily.

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Submission brings authority. When we walk in submission to God, we walk in His authority. He prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies (Psalm 23:5). He provides what we need when we're aligned with His will. Like a grilled cheese sandwich isn't complete without oozing cheese, a Christian life isn't complete without the power of the Holy Spirit and submission to His leading.

But submission isn't just about our relationship with God. It extends to the authorities He has placed in our lives – parents, spouses, employers, church leaders. When we resist these God-ordained authorities, we bring conflict and confusion into our lives. Conversely, when we submit, we open the door for God's peace and provision.

This doesn't mean blind obedience or staying in abusive situations. Rather, it's about recognizing the order God has established and working within it. When we submit to godly authority, we're ultimately submitting to God Himself.

The challenge for many of us is that we want to do our own thing, to go our own way. We rebel against constraints, even when they're for our good. But rebellion, as Scripture tells us, is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). It separates us from God and His blessings.

So how do we cultivate a spirit of submission? It starts with recognizing our need for God's guidance. We must admit that our own understanding is limited and flawed. Then, we must actively seek His will through prayer, Bible study, and counsel from godly mentors.

Submission also requires trust. We must believe that God's ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). Even when we don't understand or agree with what He's asking of us, we choose to trust His wisdom and love.

Finally, submission is an ongoing process. It's not a one-time decision, but a daily choice to yield our will to God's. As we do this, we'll find that His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30). We'll experience the peace that comes from knowing we're exactly where we're supposed to be, doing exactly what we're supposed to do.

In a world where everyone is clamoring to be heard and to assert their own rights, the path of submission may seem counterintuitive. But it's the path that leads to true freedom, peace, and fulfillment. As Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

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Today, we're faced with a choice. We can continue to follow our own understanding, doing what seems right in our own eyes. Or we can submit ourselves fully to God, trusting in His perfect will and guidance. The first path may seem appealing, but it ultimately leads to death. The second path – the path of submission – leads to life abundant and eternal.

Which path will you choose?