

What does it mean to submit or yield to Jesus? Do we understand what He demands of us? Do we even see Jesus as a demanding person? Is Jesus a gentler version of God? The following verse found in the book of John shows us Jesus's power and strength.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

This one statement shows us that total submission to Jesus is necessary to our salvation. He is the ONLY path to salvation. Without realizing this truth, we would be lost.

And these verses are the preparing of our hearts to yield everything:

Matthew 4:18-22

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed Him.

²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.

Footnote from NIV Study Bible:

4:18-20 Jesus told Peter and Andrew to leave their fishing business and become "fishers of men" to help others find God. Jesus was calling them away from their productive trades to be productive spiritually. We all need to fish for souls. If we practice Christ's teachings and share the gospel with others, we will be able to draw those around us to Christ like a fisherman who pulls fish into His boat with nets.

We too have been called to action, asked to leave other priorities behind and to put our life skills to work for the glory of the Kingdom. When our life skills are joined with the Spirit of God, our purpose is made complete.

This account is given in the gospel of Mark as well:

Mark 1:16-20

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed Him.

¹⁹ When He had gone a little farther, He saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him.

Footnote from NIV Study Bible:

1:16-20 We often assume that Jesus’s disciples were great men of faith from the first time they met Jesus. But they had to grow in their faith just as all believers do. This is not the only time Jesus called Peter, James and John to follow him (see Luke 5:1-11 and John 1:35-42 for two other times.) Although it took time for Jesus’s call and His message to get through, the disciples followed. In the same way, we may question and falter, but we must never stop following Jesus.

The first disciples, like us, had to be called more than once to do something new. Giving up an old way of life is hard and even scary. Seeing our value in bringing the Kingdom here on earth gives us an opportunity to exercise faith in something greater than ourselves. Be patient with yourselves! Jesus is the fullest example of patience as we see Him build relationships with all He has called.

Luke 5:4-11

⁴ When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because You say so, I will let down the nets.”

⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.

Footnote from NIV Study Bible:

5:8 Simon (Peter) was awestruck at this miracle, and his first response was to feel his own insignificance in comparison to this Man's greatness. Peter knew that Jesus had healed the sick and driven out demons, but he was amazed that Jesus cared about his day-to-day routine and understood his needs. God is interested not only in saving us, but also in helping us in our daily activities.

5:11 There are two requirements for coming to the God. Like Peter, we must recognize our own sinfulness. Then, like these fishermen, we must realize that we can't save ourselves. If we know that we need help, and if we know that Jesus is the only one who can help us, we will be ready to leave everything and follow Him.

God in His great love provides all our needs so that we do not rely on the world to fill the void. Remembering all the things God has done from our first memories to today will help our faith grow as we extend our hands and heart to His great work.

When our eyes are open and our hearts watchful, we will see many miracles. These remind us that even though we are sinners, we are saved by Jesus's sacrifice. This encourages us to leave it all behind, knowing our past life has prepared us for this calling.

John 1:43-51

⁴³ *The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, He said to him, “Follow Me.”*

⁴⁴ *Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”*

⁴⁶ *“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.*

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷ *When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, He said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”*

⁴⁸ *“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.*

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ *Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”*

⁵⁰ *Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”*

Footnote from NIV Study Bible:

1:46-47 Jesus knew about Nathanael before the two ever met. Jesus also knows what we are really like. And an honest person will feel comfortable with the thought that Jesus knows him or her through and through. A dishonest person will feel uncomfortable. You can't pretend to be something you're not. God knows the real you and wants you to follow Him.

Like Nathaneal and the other disciples, Jesus knows us in all our ugliness and yet chooses to call us to Him to do His Father's work. Submitting to Jesus and eternal salvation deletes all guilt and replaces that with joy!

Call to Action: Look up Romans 8:1-8 and Ephesians 4:1-32. How does submitting to Jesus change the results of our sin? How does it change our focus, our actions, and the entire way we exist in the world?