

Submission—His Way

Many want God in their lives but determine to have Him according to their own desire. We see the perfect example of submission in Jesus Christ. Even though He was the Son of God inside a man's body—because His spirit occupied that human body He could make choices like all men are giving the right to by God. The Hebrew writer states, "Who in the days of His flesh, when he had offered up vehement cries and tears to Him (God)... though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered" (Hebrews 5:7-8). Jesus could have made the decision not to be crucified, yet He put the Father's will above His own. Thus, Christ's submission can be seen in both His words and actions. Matthew records, "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed saying, O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will... Your will be done" (Matthew 26:39-42). The apostle Paul also sets an example of submission for Christians to follow. Paul also provides instructive guidance from God regarding how when transform our lives by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1-2).

Paul bowed himself down in prayer to the God of heaven: "For this reason I bow my knees the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 3:20-21). Paul shows us by example his confidence in God's ability and willingness to do abundantly above all that we may ask for or think. Paul's thoughts are not geared toward the materialistic aspects of the world. Rather, Paul understood the importance of praying to the Father for that which strengthens the most important part of the human, the spiritual.

Paul believed, as should we, that God can and will provide strength to those who submit themselves to Him. "...And what is the

immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might" (Ephesians 1:19). "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might" (Ephesians 6:10). "May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all patience and longsuffering with joy" (Colossians 1:11).

Submission to God according to His will is that which God would have occur in all of our lives. However, we must remember that just because God would have such be the case, He will not force anyone to do that which He wills. We can, though, approach submissiveness with a positive attitude and an attitude of obtaining true submission in our lives. We have Christ's example, Paul's example, and the God's promise that we can do it. Just as Paul stated, so can we, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).