

Submission to Authority – Daily Exercises

Thoughts and questions for reflection, writing, and prayer to enhance personal growth.

Day 1

Write about a time when you had a problem with someone in authority over you. Were they wrong in the situation? Were you wrong? How did you respond to them? Were you respectful or disrespectful towards them? Was there a character flaw in you that caused you to have a problem with them? How could you have responded better or had a better attitude? Do you think your reaction pleased God, or do you think He would have wanted you to act differently? What do you think Jesus would have done had He been in your same situation?

Day 2

Does God tell you to only submit to those in authority over you when they act in a way that is right according to your judgment? (Of course that doesn't include if they tell you to do something that God specifically forbids, but that is almost never the situation in our lives.) Most of the time when we have a problem with authority, it is because they either told us to do something we don't want to do, or because they did something that offended us in some way.

PROVERBS 12:16 (NIV)

A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

Write down how this applies to past situations where you have become upset with those who have authority over you. What are some godly character traits that will help you grow in this area of your life?

Day 3

Memorize

ROMANS 13:1 (NIV)

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Day 4

It is very common for us to begin submission with external submission and then we have the choice to grow further into having genuine submission out of a true desire to honor God. Submission to God is often difficult when God does things. In your current situation, there may be others who exercise external submission, but internally are rebellious. God knows if we are submitting to Him externally or in our hearts also. What would be an example of someone who is only submitting externally and not internally? A person who is submitting to God only externally is always white-knuckling it and doesn't find peace until they truly surrender their will to God and begin to submit to Him in their hearts, while wanting to do so. What is an example of someone submitting in their heart?

Day 5

One wrong belief about God is thinking I am not submitting to God unless it really hurts. But the kind of submission God really wants is when we are completely willing to submit to Him because we trust and love Him and know He wants good for us. The more we surrender, the more we begin to think of others and the more effective we become at loving others because we have let go of self. Ask God what areas you need to submit to Him? What about authorities in your life?