

**How Do I Know God's Will?:  
Principles for a God-Directed Life (Part 3)**

*Where NOT to Start...*

- Not Advice
- Not Circumstances
- Not Consensus
- Not Desires
- Not Feelings

**3 Key Steps**

1. **Identify Specific Commands**
  - a. *Has God spoken concerning this?*
  - b. *Has He said to do or not to do this?*
2. **Evaluate General Principles**
  - a. *Does something God has said relate to my situation or decision?*
3. **Exercise Biblical Wisdom**
  - a. *What does the Bible indicate is the wisest decision, direction or action?*

**Principle #1: The Principle of PRIORITY**

Matthew 6:33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

<i>But:</i>	Our <b>purposeful</b> choice
<i>Be seeking:</i>	Our <b>practice</b> of looking for
<i>First:</i>	Our <b>placing</b> before/instead of
<i>The Kingdom [of God]:</i>	God's <b>program</b>
<i>And His righteousness:</i>	God's <b>process</b>
<i>And all these things:</i>	Other <b>pulls</b>
<i>Shall be added to you:</i>	God's <b>promise</b>

**Principle #2: The Principle of AUTHORITY**

One of the most foundational concepts of a believer's growth is to learn the importance of authority and submission. Every relationship created by God has both authority and submission. Learning to submit is fundamental to our proper response to God, to having a godly marriage and raising godly children, to having a Biblically functioning congregation, and to our proper response to government and those without.

**New Testament "hupo" Words:**

Several words are used in the NT for submission, and each has similar meanings with slightly different emphases:

- (1) **hupotasso** (ὑποτάσσω) – means "to place under; to submit to"
- (2) **hupotage** (ὑποταγή) – the noun form of hupotasso = "submission"
- (3) **hupakouo** (ὑπακούω) – means "to listen under and be responsive to"
- (4) **hupakoe** (ὑπακοή) – the noun form of hupakouo = "obedience"
- (5) **hupеiko** (ὑπέικω) – means "to yield to; to give way to" (only in Heb 13:17, from *eiko* [εἶκω], to give place or to yield, used only in Gal 2:5 in a negative sense – not to give in to those that demand keeping the Law)

**Realms of Submission**

1. **Toward** \_\_\_\_\_  
James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (1)  
2 Cor 10:5-6 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the **obedience** (4) of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your **obedience** (4) is fulfilled.
2. **In the** \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Wives to** \_\_\_\_\_  
Col 3:18 Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (1)  
Titus 2:5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, **obedient** to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (1)
  - **Children to** \_\_\_\_\_  
Eph 6:1 Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (3)  
Col 3:20 Children, **obey** your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.  
Lu 2:51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and **was subject** to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. (1)
3. **In the** \_\_\_\_\_
  - **To Spiritual** \_\_\_\_\_  
Heb 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and **be submissive**, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (5)
  - **To Older** \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Pet 5:5 Likewise you younger people, **submit** yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." (1)
  - **Believers Are To Submit To Those** \_\_\_\_\_ **To Service**  
1 Cor 16:15-16 <sup>15</sup>I urge you, brethren -- you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, *and that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – <sup>16</sup>that you also **submit** to such, and to everyone who works and labors with *us*. (1)
  - **Women In** \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Tim 2:11 Let a woman learn in silence with all **submission**. (2)  
1 Cor 14:34 Let your *women* keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; *but they are* to **be submissive**, as the law also says. (1)
  - **To** \_\_\_\_\_  
Eph 5:21 **submitting** to one another in the fear of God. (1)
4. **Towards the** \_\_\_\_\_
  - **To Government** \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Pet 2:13-14 Therefore **submit yourselves** to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, <sup>14</sup>or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. (1)
  - **To Human** \_\_\_\_\_  
Titus 2:9 *Exhort* bondservants to **be obedient** to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all *things*, not answering back, (1)