INTRODUCTION
1. The subject defined: "Submission is the act of submitting, yielding, surrendering; humble behavior; compliance with the commands of a superior.
2. Submission to God's will is simply doing what God says to do -- Matt. 7: 21; James 4:7.
3. To do otherwise is to rebel against God.
4. God is not a tyrant, exacting His will upon us to oppress and injure; His arrangements are for our good -- I John 5:3.

I. WHAT SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL IS NOT
1. A mere promise to obey.
   (1) The man with the two sons, one that promised, never kept the promise -- Matt. 21: 28 - 31.
   (3) Matthew 7: 21 - 23 teaches that some who never did the will of God will plead their case at judgment.
   (4) No doubt some who promised to become Christians will seek to have their sentence set aside on the basis of what they promised -- James 1: 22.
2. A pious confession.
   (1) The prophet Balaam piously professed to do exactly as God commanded -- Num. 22:18.
   (2) At the same time, he was making plans to go beyond -- Num. 22: 19.
   (3) Many members of the church make a pious profession.
      1. They teach baptism is essential, then forsake the assembly.
      2. They say, "Believe in Christ.", and live corrupt lives -- Eph. 4:20.
3. Obeying the commandments of men.
   (1) Jesus said they make God's commandments of none effect -- Matt. 15:6.
   (2) "Faith only" -- James 2:24.
   (3) "Baptism is not essential" -- Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16.
   (4) "One church is as good as another" -- Matt. 16: 18; Eph. 4:4.
   (5) Matt. 7: 21 - 23
4. Substitution is not submission.
   (1) Cain substituted a vegetable sacrifice for what God had commanded -- Gen. 4:4; Heb. 11:4.
      a. God had no respect for his gift or sacrifice.
   (2) Nadab and Abihu did not offer the fire that God had commanded -- they substituted -- Lev. 10:1 - 2.
   (3) God will not accept a substitute for obedience -- I Sam. 15: 22 -23.
   (4) One who substitutes today is equally as guilty as Cain, Nadab, Abihu, and Saul.
   (1) One who follows God's instructions as long as they coincide with his own is not obedient.
   (2) Ananias and Sapphira -- Acts 5: 1 - 11
II. WHAT IS SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL?

1. Doing just what God commands, exactly as He commands.
   (1) Jesus is our example -- I Pet. 2:21; Heb. 5: 8 - 9; 10:9.
   (2) In doing the will of God we build upon the rock -- Matt. 7: 24.
   (3) We are blessed -- James 1:25.
   (4) We have a right to the tree of life -- Rev. 22:14.

2. Doing the will of God from the RIGHT MOTIVE.
   (1) We should because of love -- I John 2:4 - 5; John 14:15.
   (2) The Pharisees prayed in the streets to be heard of men -- Matt. 6: 1 - 6.
   (3) Some preached the gospel through the envy they had for Paul -- Phil. 1:19.

3. By walking by faith -- 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:6.

4. We must be willing to suffer the consequences of submission to God's will.
   (1) Jesus endured the cross -- Phil. 2:8.
   (2) Peter and John -- Acts 4: 18, 19
   (3) Paul said -- 2 Tim. 3:12.
   (4) Paul was set for the defense of the gospel -- Phil. 1: 17.

CONCLUSION

1. In view of what we have studied, can you say you are submissive to the will of God?
2. If you have not submitted, will you not now submit?

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