



Trusting in the Providence of God: Submitting to the Will of God

MAIN IDEA

- **Trusting in the providence of God means submitting to His will.**

MEMORY VERSE:

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!—Psalm 143:10

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Deuteronomy 10:12-13
- 2) Deuteronomy 29:18-21
- 3) Psalm 143:10
- 4) Luke 5:1-11
- 5) Luke 22:42



LESSON SUMMARY

Though God knows exactly what He is doing and His ways are always right, we often proudly and foolishly question and even resist what God is doing in our lives. If we would rightly trust God, we must believe three biblical truths:

- God is completely sovereign.
- God is infinite in wisdom.
- God is perfect in love.

The way we react to what God is doing in our lives will show whether we truly believe that He is completely sovereign, infinitely wise, and perfectly loving. We can measure our faith in God by our level of obedience to His commands.

Simon gives us an example of obedience to Jesus' commands and respect for His authority in Luke 5. The disciples had been fishing all night, but caught nothing. Yet Jesus commanded them to "put out into the deep and let their nets down." Simon's answer was, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets" (Luke 5:5).

Jesus calls us to this same kind of trust and obedience. He asks us to lay down our wills and follow Him—even when we don't understand what He is doing. May God give you this kind of heart. May you trust Him regardless of the way things appear, knowing that He is completely sovereign, infinite in wisdom, and perfect in love.

With your son or daughter, pray for a heart attitude like Jesus, which says not my will, but yours be done.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read Philippians 1:12-18 together and discuss the following questions.

- **What is Paul's situation?**
- **What is his attitude toward the will of God or God's assignment for his life?**
- **Why is this his attitude?**

Talk about a difficult assignment God had for you or your family. Share about your attitude toward what God had willed for you and what you would change about the experience if you could.

ACTION STEP

During application time, each student was asked to decide on a personal response to what was learned. After recording this step below, discuss how your child can apply this response to his or her life this week.

**SUGGESTION FOR JOURNALING**

Each day this week, write about at least one personal experience that made you think about God being responsible for all circumstances in our lives. How did knowing that God is in charge make you respond? Did your response please God? Write out Psalm 143:10 in your journal and pray it every day.

SEEING GOD AT WORK

Anywhere But the City

by Sally Michael

“God, I will go anywhere you want me to go, but I won’t go to the city. I’ll go to Africa if you want, but not to the city. I don’t want to raise my children in this situation.” I prayed silently as I walked back to the church after dropping off the Bible club children I taught on Friday nights in Brooklyn, New York. I was trying to let God know my terms. They weren’t that bad—I was giving up quite a lot, I thought. After all, I was willing to go to Africa—almost the limit in my college-aged mind.

For a while everything seemed to be going along fine. I graduated from college, married a wonderful man, and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota so that my husband could attend seminary. In my husband’s first year of seminary, we had to take a piece of equipment to a service center in the heart of Minneapolis. The children were playing in the streets. They were dirty—both their bodies and their mouths—and no one was watching them. I couldn’t wait to get back to the seminary campus.

During the third year of my husband’s seminary training, he did an apprenticeship at an urban ministry in Minneapolis. Uh oh. This was feeling a little more uncomfortable.

During that year, we visited my husband’s coworker in his home. It was located in what, at the time, was the second highest crime district in Minneapolis. As I stood in his dining room, I had the overwhelming

feeling that someday I would be living in that apartment and my husband would be working for the ministry where he was apprenticed. That night, God did an amazing work in my heart—and six or eight months later my husband and I were living in that apartment and he was working in that ministry.

God prepared me for that move in many ways. First, He taught me that He is the boss, not me. He placed a copy of Dave Wilkerson’s book, *The Cross and the Switchblade*, in my hands and in my heart. And he brought me in contact with people in need through the ministry where my husband was involved.

We later bought a house in the inner city. And a few weeks later, I passed a service center a few blocks from our home. I mentioned it to my husband that evening.

“You’ve been there before. Don’t you remember going there when I was in seminary?” he stated.

“No, I haven’t,” I replied. “That one was in a crummy neighborhood!”

It took a bit of convincing for my husband to persuade me that this was the same service center. The neighborhood hadn’t really changed. God had changed my heart.

Is there areas of your life that you are withholding from God? Is there anything God is calling you to do that you are resisting? Whose plan is the right plan? Pray that God would give you a willing heart that trusts His plans.