

Enthusiasm may start an assignment,
but a submitted heart stays when the excitement is gone.

Five ActsB. Fellowship Turns “I Have To” Into “I Get To”

1 Timothy 1:12 (NKJV)

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has **enabled me**, because **He counted me faithful**,
putting me into the ministry,

**Gratitude restores joy to service because it reminds
me that serving the King is an invitation, not a punishment.**

**Fellowship produces love.
Love produces submission.
Submission produces service.
Service produces faithfulness.
Faithfulness produces fruit.**

**God never intended servanthood to be something we manufacture
through religious effort.**

**Father God intended our serving to be a visible expression of an
invisible relationship.**



When Fellowship with God Becomes Visible in Our Lives

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Central truth:

**Submission is not first about what I do for God;
it is about what happens in me as I yield to God.**

Mark 10:45 (NKJV)

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a
ransom for many.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (PB paraphrase)

I can speak powerfully, understand spiritual things, have great faith, give generously, and
even make great sacrifices—but if love is not my motive, it all **amounts to nothing**.

OR

“**No matter what I say, know, believe, give, or sacrifice—without love, it counts for
nothing.**”

**The goal is a life so surrendered to God that people can see Him in
us.**

John 15:5 (NKJV)

“I am the vine, you are the branches. **He who abides in Me, and I in him**, bears much fruit;
for without Me you can do nothing.

Notice the order: **Abide first. Fruit follows.**

**Submission is not forced behavior; submission is
the fruit of a heart living in fellowship with God.**

1. A SUBMITTED HEART LIVES FROM FELLOWSHIP, NOT PERFORMANCE

John 15:4 (NKJV)

Abide in Me, and I in you. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself**, unless it **abides** in the
vine, **neither can you, unless you abide in Me**.

John 15:5 (NKJV)

“I am the vine, you are the branches. **He who abides in Me, and I in him**, bears much fruit;
for without Me you can do nothing.

We don’t serve for God’s acceptance; we serve from His acceptance.”

**The healthiest service never begins with a need in front of me;
it begins with the life of God flowing within me.**

A. Fellowship Makes Me Available and Spiritually Alert

Galatians 5:25 (NKJV)

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

Availability is spiritual sensitivity.

Holy Spirit, what are You doing around me, and how can I cooperate with You?

A submitted heart says yes because it trusts God and cares about people.

B. Love Becomes the Motive Behind What I Do

1 Corinthians 13:3 (NKJV)

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but **have not love, it profits me nothing.**

God is not only interested in the work of my hands; He wants the affection of my heart.

2. A SUBMITTED HEART TREATS EVERYTHING AS AN ASSIGNMENT FROM GOD

Colossians 3:23 (NKJV)

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

When Jesus becomes the One I am serving, the size of the assignment no longer determines the size of my commitment.

A. Submission Produces Faithfulness in Small Things

Luke 16:10 (NKJV)

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much.”

What God has placed in my hands right now is important because He placed it there.

God often prepares us for what is next by watching how we handle what is now.

B. Submission Makes Me a Steward Instead of an Owner

1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Submission says, “Lord, nothing I possess is truly mine; I simply want to be trustworthy with what You have placed in my hands.”

3. A SUBMITTED HEART IS SECURE ENOUGH TO PUT OTHERS FIRST

Philippians 2:3 (NKJV)

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem others better than himself.**

Philippians 2:4 (NKJV)

Let each of you **look out not only for his own interests**, but also **for the interests of others.**

Philippians 2:5 (NKJV)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

The more secure I become in who I am in Christ, the less I need people to recognize what I do for Christ.

A. Security Allows Me to Serve Without the Spotlight

Philippians 2:4 (NKJV)

“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

When I know the Father sees me, I no longer have to make sure everybody else sees me.

B. Security Frees Me from Comparison

Galatians 6:4 (NLT)

Pay careful attention to your own work, for then **you will get the satisfaction** of a job well done, and **you won’t need to compare yourself** to anyone else.

A secure believer can celebrate another person's assignment without questioning their own.

4. A SUBMITTED HEART SERVES WITH JOY AND ENDURANCE

Romans 12:11 (NKJV)

“**Not lagging** in diligence, **fervent** in spirit, **serving** the Lord.”

OR

“Stay **ready**, stay **passionate**, and **serve** Jesus like He truly is your Lord.” **(PB paraphrase)**

There is something powerful about those words: **Serving the Lord.**

What begins as privilege should never be allowed to deteriorate into obligation.

A. Fellowship Produces Enduring Faithfulness

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV)

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”