



soulmind

Connecting you with God's heart

Real Needs

Deuteronomy 8:2-5 (NLT)

Welcome to **Soulmind**.

God's love has many faces, and sometimes we have a hard time recognizing Him when things aren't going well – or at least the way we think things ought to be going.

This week's topic takes a look at our tendency to expect God to make us comfy, happy, and successful, even while we hold on to maintaining control and being in charge of our life. Submission, obedience, and discipline are generally not our favorite words or preferred status update on Facebook!

Humility, teachability, and obedience are a choice to really see God.



Listen to the [COMPLETE 12 min. DEVOTIONAL](#)

Listen to the [SCRIPTURE & MUSIC ONLY](#)

Listen to the [MUSIC ONLY](#)

Be sure to check out the **SOUL PRACTICE** suggestion for this week (*see below*).

Topic Overview

Just a month after God powerfully delivered the people of Israel from Pharaoh, they were back to complaining, and quite dramatically at that: *"If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt," they moaned. "There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death."* (**Exodus 16:3**) To quote the late great B.B. King, the thrill was clearly gone!

I want to get all judgmental about their poor behavior: How could they be so forgetful and ungrateful? How could they dare to complain like that to the Lord God Almighty, who had just shown them what He was capable of doing on their behalf? Evidently, their deliverance didn't mean that they actually arrived, and they were *not* happy campers! Turns out that God's purposes were more than to give them a comfortable existence—they did not yet know and trust God. Grumpy, hungry, cranky, disgruntled people – wait, that sounds a lot like me when I get troubled, tired, and out of my comfort zone. Perfect conditions for God to train, correct, discipline, and teach obedience, right?

Ooh, I really don't like those words much. I don't like being told what to do, and I am more than a bit stubborn and independent. I much prefer to focus on God's love, peace, and joy, and would rather gloss over words like *discipline, test, training, submit, obey*. But, believe me – those words and concepts pop up all over Scripture, and I'm learning that my dislike of them says a lot more about my stubborn heart than about God's love and goodness.

In the continuing story of Israel, God clearly set about testing their faithfulness to Him, and expected them to obey His commands. He miraculously sent them the food they needed, along with specific instructions as to how to get the food, with a clearly stated purpose: *"By evening you will realize it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt. In the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because He has heard your complaints..."* When some didn't obey the instructions, God explained further: *"How long will these people refuse to obey my commands and instructions? They must realize that the Sabbath is the Lord's gift to you. That is why He gives you a two-day supply on the sixth day, so there will be enough for two days."* (**Exodus 16:28-29**) Provision for their needs along with an unexpected gift... but with instructions to be obeyed.

Why *do* we always think our plan is better than His?

What if obedience is not about being coerced by someone exerting their position, power, and authority, but rather is a freely given response to evident superiority, knowledge, and ability? What if God knows far more about what we need than we do? Like a good parent, He loves us by training, discipline, and correction to mold our character. He teaches us through both good and bad experiences that we can depend on Him – that He is faithful and trustworthy. We learn to see more and more clearly just who He is – a good and loving Father.

Daily Scriptures

MONDAY

Proverbs 3:11-12 (NLT)

My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

TUESDAY

Proverbs 1:1-7 (NLT)

These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel. Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. These proverbs will give

THURSDAY

Hebrews 5:12-14

You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

FRIDAY

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean

insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young. Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

WEDNESDAY

Hebrews 12:10-11 (NLT)

For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Doing Your Part

SOUL PRACTICE

Proverb-A-Day

When you read the first seven verses of the Book of Proverbs, you will see that the purpose of these proverbs is to help you gain wisdom and live well - God's way. There are 31 Proverbs, one for each day of the month.

Read the one that corresponds to the day of the month. Keep at it for several months, come back occasionally to read through again. Ask the Holy Spirit to shine light on what He wants you to see, and then obey what you have been shown. (HINT: This would be the wise thing to do).

Wise Words

Our Lord never insists on having authority over us. He never says, "You will submit to me." No, He leaves us perfectly free to choose... He never insists on obedience, but when we truly see Him we will instantly obey Him. Then He is easily Lord of our life, and we live in adoration of Him from morning till night. The level of my growth in grace is revealed by the way I look at obedience.

Oswald Chamber, *My Utmost For His Highest* (July 19)

To read and listen to past devotionals, go to soulmind.net

You can update your profile and email preferences at any time [HERE](#)

If you don't want to receive these emails, you can [Unsubscribe](#) here.

[Rewards]

