

Submit to the Lord's Will

The Civil War was the most divisive time in American history. It was a time when each side thought their way was the best. The siege on Fort Sumter (April 12, 1861) ignited a four-year war between the states that caused our nation to be severely divided. We took up arms against our brothers. 620,000 lives were needlessly lost in the conflict. Families were torn apart and portions of our nation's landscape were devastated. President Abraham Lincoln called on the people to submit to a higher authority to bring peace to our nation. On July 15, 1863, he said:



"I invite the people of the United States ... to invoke the influence of His Holy Spirit ... to guide the counsels of the government with wisdom adequate to so great a national emergency, and to visit with tender care and consolation throughout the length and breadth of our land all those who, through the vicissitudes of marches, voyages, battles, and sieges have been brought to suffer in mind, body, or estate, and finally to lead the whole nation through the paths of repentance and submission to the Divine will back to the perfect enjoyment of union and internal peace."

Lincoln had urged the people to ask God for wisdom in the face of the national emergency. He prayed that the Holy Spirit would lead the nation on the path to repentance and submission to God. It was Lincoln's opinion that the only way to peace in the hearts of people was through a spiritual revival.



How about our nation today? We are becoming divided today in many areas of our lives, thinking our way is best, and building walls that divide us. The biggest wall is what separates us from the Heavenly Father. Many times, we place our "will" ahead of His. We reject God's will for ours. It is no wonder why we live in a world so much in conflict. Even today, we need to follow Lincoln's goal to repent of our ways and submit ourselves to God's will.

Let us seek peace through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Bible Says: *Submit to God, and you will have peace; then things will go well for you. Listen to his instructions, and store them in your heart. If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored— so clean up your life. (Job 22:21-25).*

Question: What can I do to submit myself to the Lord and be a person of peace in this broken world?

Closing Prayer: Most gracious Heavenly Father. I am judgmental of other people. I want my way to be the way we go. Yet, this attitude promotes division. I submit myself to You and I seek to follow You, asking for Your forgiveness and guidance. Let Your will be done. Give me the peace that comes from being right with You. Amen.

The concept and Lincoln's quote are from [Battlefields & Blessings](#), by Terry Tuley, page 206.