

How Many Letters are *Really* in Your Alphabet?

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Back In 1st Grade...



**How Many Letters are In
Your Alphabet?**

Back In 1st Grade...



**Which Letters in the
Alphabet are Missing in
Your Life?**

**Are There Letters That
are Over-emphasized?**

**How Are
You Being
Held
Back?**



**Unmanageable Anxiety?
Unsustainable Stress?
Decreased Effectiveness?
Impaired Judgement?
Paralysis?**

**Which
Missing
Letters
are
Holding
You Back?**



Most Often Missing in Ineffective Lives:

O, N, K, O

Most Often Over Emphasized in Ineffective Lives:

E, M

Lack of Submission

"OK"



Failure to Submit

Submission to Whom?

- Relationships
 - Ephesians 5:21:
 - "...Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ."
 - Romans 12:10:
 - "Outdo one another in showing honor"
- Authorities
 - Romans 13:1-2:
 - "... Be subject to governing authorities."
- Superiors
 - Hebrews 13:17:
 - "Obey your leaders and submit to them... let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."
- Biblical Authority
 - Romans 10:3:
 - "... Submit to God's righteousness."
- God
 - James 4:7
 - "Submit yourself therefore to God."
 - Psalm 81:11
 - "... Israel would not submit to me."

Over-Commitment

"NO"



Satisfaction/Contentment or Something Less?

- Lack of Contentment (Philippians 4:11)
 - Accumulation of Things
 - Portfolio Development vs Eternal Purposes
- Success and Achievements
- Other's Perspectives: People Pleasing
- Chasing Legacy
 - Retirement Virtues vs Eulogy Virtues
- God's Plan for Your Life: Calling
 - Caution! Work is not your identity
- Living Through Your Strength Instead of God's
 - Philippians 4:13
 - "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

**What is the Underlying Cause
for Both a Lack of Submission
and Over-commitment?**



What is the Underlying Cause for Both a Lack of Submission and Over-commitment?

"ME"



What is Our Primary Purpose?



**"...To the Praise of His
Glory"**

Ephesians 1:1-14

Our Purpose: What Does God's Word Say?

- Psalm 138:8
 - "The **Lord will fulfill His purpose for me**; Your steadfast love, oh Lord, endures forever."
- Psalm 57:2
 - "I cry out to God Most High, to **God who fulfills His purpose for me.**"
- Acts 13:36
 - "For David, after he had **served the purpose of God** in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption."
- Psalm 46:10
 - "**Be Still**, and know that I am God."
- Job 42:2
 - "I know that you can do all things, and that **no purpose of yours can be thwarted**"
- Proverbs 19:21
 - "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is **the purpose of the Lord that will stand.**"

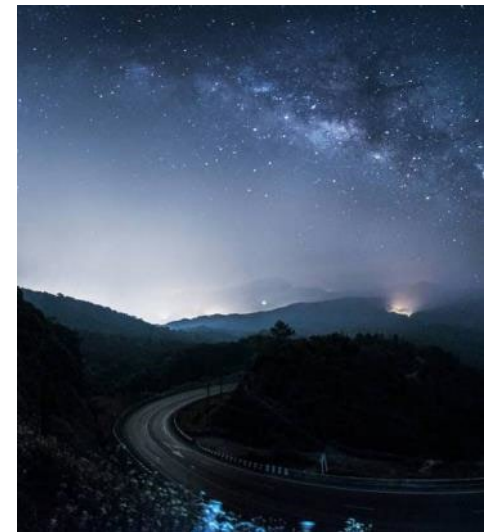
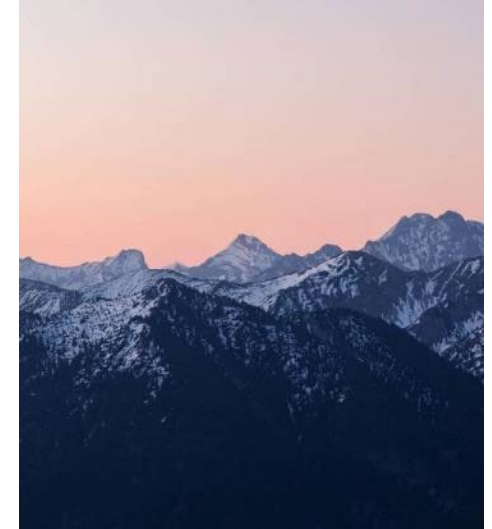
Considerations in Making God-Honoring Choices



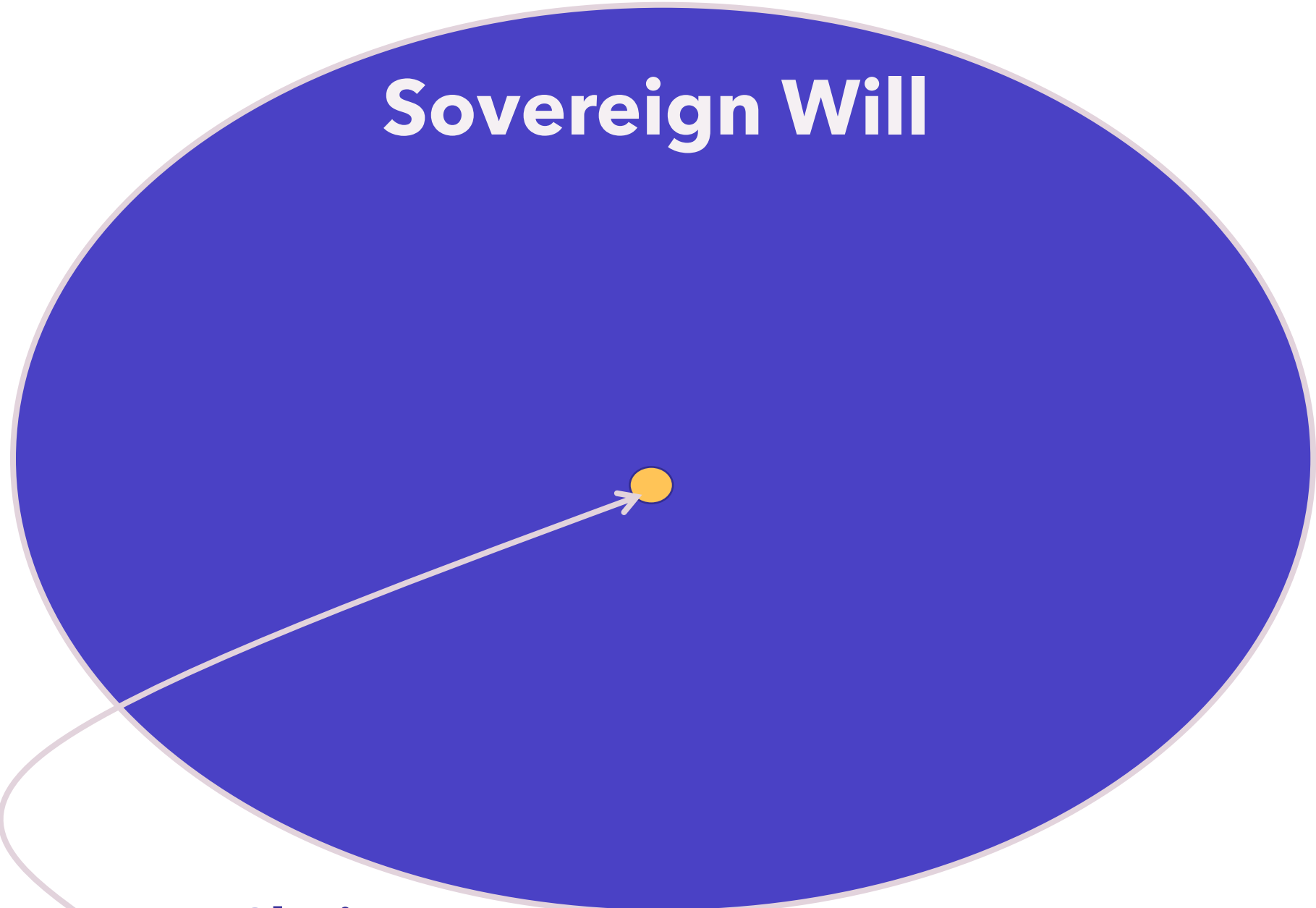
Key Concept!

**God is Much More Concerned
With You Looking Like Christ
...than He is With Your Specific
Decisions/Achievements**

**Honor Him With
Everything!**



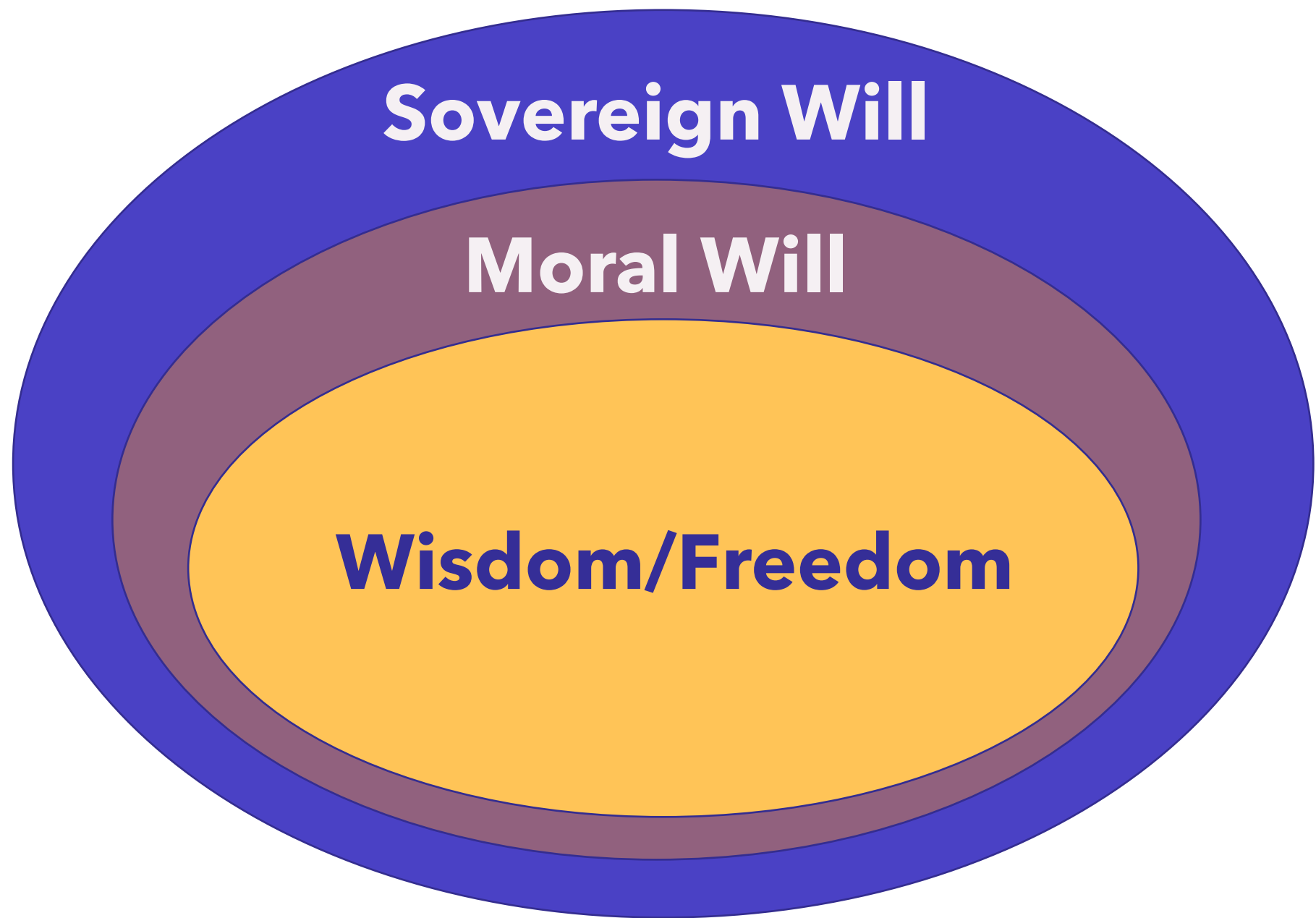
Sovereign Will



My Choices

**Models for
Discerning
God's Will**

**Models for
Discerning
God's Will**



Recommendations for Making Good Choices

The One Who Offers Thanksgiving as his Sacrifice Glorifies Me; to the One Who Orders his Way Rightly I will Show the Salvation of God!"

Psalm 50:23

Begin Day with Prayer:

- 1. Thanksgiving and Praise**
- 2. Appeal for Wisdom**
 - James 1:5-6: Ask God!
 - Prov 15:22: Ask Others
 - Psalm 119:128: God's Word
 - "... your precepts are right..."
- 3. Order Your Day**
 - Psalm 119:173
 - "... I have chosen your precepts"
- 4. Beg for Guidance in Your Choices**
 - "Open eyes of my heart"
 - "Frustrate my paths"
- 5. Honor God as Best You Can!**

Summary

Key to a Satisfied/Contented Life Seems to be Guarding Against:

Focus on Self (ME)

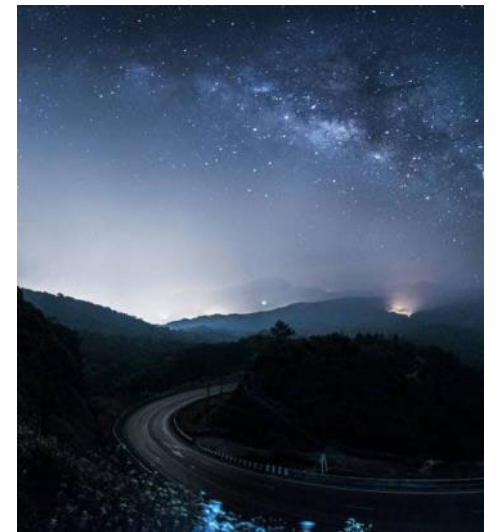
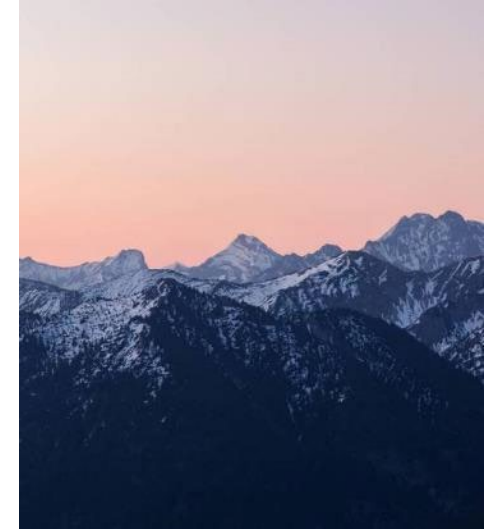
Overcommitment (NO)

Lack of Submission (OK)

Instead, Focus On:

Thanksgiving/Praise (GOD)

Ordered Life (OK)





**May God
Richly
Bless You
as You
Serve
Him!!**



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