


**How Many Letters are *Really* in Your Alphabet?**



Jeffrey A. Bates, PharmD, BS Pharm, FMPA  
 Dean & Professor  
 School of Pharmacy  
 Cedarville University  
 937.760.3216 (work)  
 989.329.2198 (cell)  
 jlbates@cedarville.edu

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**Back In 1<sup>st</sup> Grade...**



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

2

**Back In 1<sup>st</sup> Grade...**

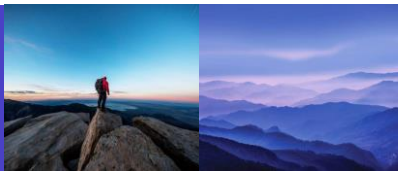


**Which Letters in the Alphabet are Missing in Your Life?**

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

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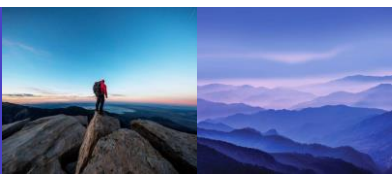
**How Are You Being Held Back?**



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

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

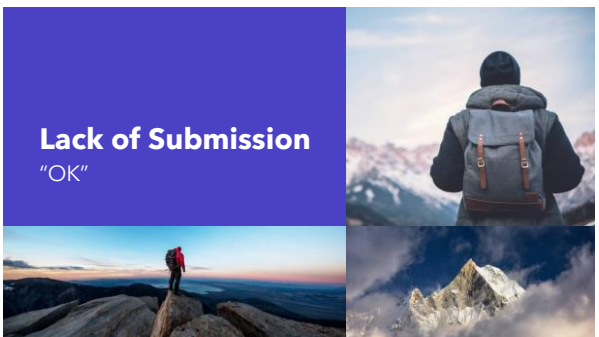


**Most Often Missing in Ineffective Lives:**  
 O, N, K, Q

**Most Often Over Emphasized in Ineffective Lives:**  
 E, M

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**Lack of Submission**  
 "OK"



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## 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 grumbling, 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."

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## Over-Commitment

"NO"



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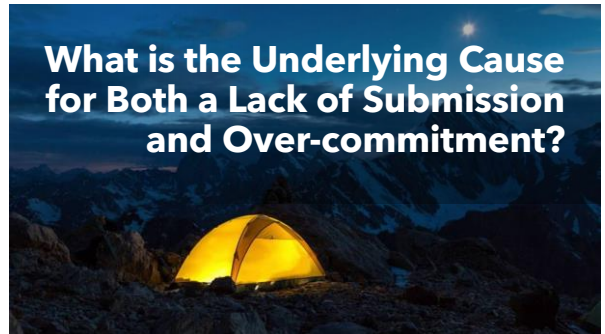
## Over-Commitment

### 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)

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



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

"ME"

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## What is Our Primary Purpose?

"...To the Praise of His Glory"

Ephesians 1:1-14

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## 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.**"

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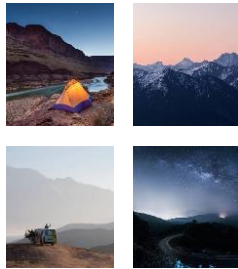


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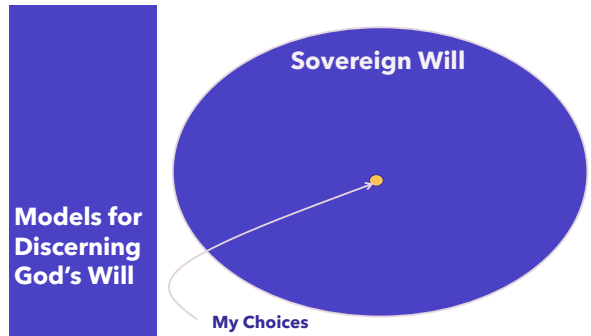
### Key Concept!

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

Honor Him With  
Everything!

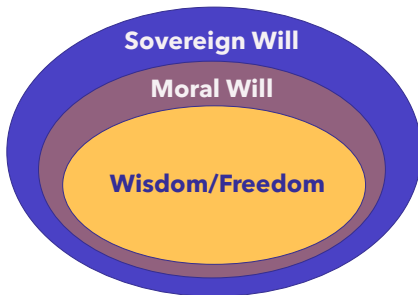


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### Models for Discerning God's Will



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## 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!**

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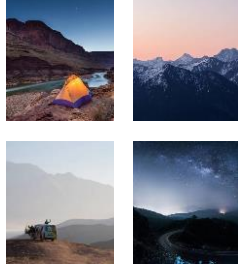
## Summary

### 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!!**

**Jeffrey A. Bates, PharmD, BS Pharm, FMPA**  
 Dean & Professor  
 School of Pharmacy  
 Cedarville University  
 937-766-3016 (work)  
 989-329-2295 (cell)  
 jabates@Cedarville.edu

