

Seek God F-I-R-S-T

- “F” - FIRST, FERVENTLY & FINANCIALLY
- “I” - Intelligently, Immediately & Imitatively
- “R” - Reverently, Radiantly, & Responsively
- “S” - Sincerely, Scripturally, & Spiritually
- “T” - Trustingly, Tirelessly, & Triumphantly

The lesson is entitled "**Seek God FIRST**".

There is a very important adverb in [Matt.6:33](#), the word "**FIRST**", which needs to be emphasized in our lives.

...Considering OTHER adverbs, that support the principles, which involve FIRST priorities with God, can help in our Understanding, of what it means to "Seek God FIRST".

I. We'll begin with the first letter, "F", from the word "F-I-R-S-T"

1. **FIRST** (Not 2nd, not last, but FIRST. The building block; The Sum of all that follows).

...**BEFORE**, anything else.

[Lk.14:17-20](#) reads,

- "**COME**; for all things are **NOW ready**.¹⁸ And they **ALL** with **ONE consent** began to **MAKE EXCUSE**. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me **EXCUSED**.¹⁹ And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me **EXCUSED**.²⁰ And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I **CANNOT COME**. ...Then the servants Lord said,²⁴ None of those men which were bidden, shall taste of my supper." (that's [Lk.14:17-24](#))

To **Seek God FIRST**, we need to **Trust God** for our **NEEDS**

- "my God shall supply all your **NEED according to His riches IN** glory, **BY Christ Jesus**." ([Phil.4:19](#))
- "**Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and ALL these things shall be ADDED unto you**." ([Matt.6:33](#))

To **Seek God FIRST**, we need to Do so,

2. **FERVENTLY** (Having, and Showing great Warmth and Earnestness).

Which is an Intense feeling and desire to be "**Wise IN Christ**" ([1Cor.4:10](#)).

- "Therefore whosoever **HEARETH** these sayings of Mine, and **DOETH** them, I will liken him, unto a **WISE** man, which **BUILT** his house upon a **ROCK**." ([Matt.7:24](#))

Fervently, is the kind of labor that doesn't go unnoticed.

- "Therefore, my beloved brethren, **BE ye STEDFAST**, UNmoveable, **always ABOUNDING** in the **work OF** the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your **LABOUR** is not in vain **IN** the Lord." ([1Cor.15:58](#))

To **Seek God FIRST**, necessarily involves our,

3. **FINANCES**.

The Almighty doesn't need our "millions"

- "for the earth *is* the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." ([1Cor.10:26](#))

But we need His blessings

- The Bible says, "He which soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully.⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:" ([2Cor.9:6-8](#))

II. We now come to the letter “I”, in the Word “F-I-R-S-T”

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

1. INTELLIGENTLY.

Reasonable AND pliable, when hearing His Truth.

- Paul said, “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” ([Gal.4:16](#))
...because some would not **reason** from the scriptures **Intelligently**.

To Seek God FIRST with Intelligence, would require responding **QUICKLY**, to **OBEY** the call of His gospel.

- “Seeing ye have purified your souls in **OBEYING** the Truth through the Spirit... ([1Pet.1:22](#))

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

2. IMMEDIATELY.

We need to be christians, NOW!

- “why tarriest thou? (that is, why wait)
arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” ([Acts 22:16](#))

Then MUCH work, in a SHORT amount of Time.

- “Say **NOT** ye, There are yet four months, and **THEN** cometh harvest? **BEHOLD**, I say unto you, Lift **UP** your eyes, and **LOOK** on the fields; for they are white **ALREADY** to harvest.” ([Jn.4:35](#))
- “But this I say, brethren, the **TIME is SHORT**.” ([1Cor.7:29](#))

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

3. IMITATIVELY.

Following our great example.

- “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an **EXAMPLE**, that ye should **FOLLOW** His steps.” ([1Pet.2:21](#))

Also following spiritual giants...

- Paul said, “Be ye **FOLLOWERS** of me, even as I also am of Christ.” ([1Cor.11:1](#))

Now, Let's Consider Some Adverbs that begin with the letter,

III. "R" which support the principles, that Involve FIRST priorities with God

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

1. REVERENTLY

- "Let all the earth **FEAR** the Lord:
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in **AWE** of Him." ([Psa.33:8](#))

Reverently In worship (no talking or confusion),

- As, "God is greatly to be **FEARED** in the assembly of the saints,
and to be had in **REVERENCE** of all them that are about Him." ([Psa.89:7](#))

Reverently, In all service of daily living...

- "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace,
whereby we may **SERVE** God acceptably with **REVERENCE** and godly **FEAR**:" ([Heb.12:28](#))

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

2. RADIANTLY (that is, Bright with joy and hope).

Heavenly communion brings **JOY**.

- "when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip,
that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way **REJOICING**." ([Acts 8:39](#))
- "for the kingdom of God is not meat and drink;
but righteousness, and peace, and **JOY** in the Holy Spirit." ([Rom.14:17](#))

Increasing, with our capacity to **ENJOY**.

- "whom having not seen, ye love; **IN** whom, though now ye see Him not, yet **BELIEVING**,
ye **REJOICE** with **JOY** unspeakable and full of glory:" ([1Pet.1:8](#))

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

3. RESPONSIVELY.

...Sensitive to God's every Word.

- Samuel said, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth." ([1Sam.3:9](#))
- "For **ALL** those things, hath Mine hand **MADE**, and **ALL** those things have **BEEN**, saith the Lord:
but to this man will I **LOOK**, even to him that is **POOR**, and of a **CONTRITE** spirit,
and **TREMBLETH** at My Word." ([Isa.66:2](#))
- "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?
Then said I, **Here am I; send me**." (reads [Isa.6:8](#))

Any other attitude is dangerous, as Jesus said,

- "He that **REJECTETH** Me, and Receiveth **NOT** My Words, hath one that judgeth him:
the **Word** that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." ([Jn.12:48](#))

IV. We now come to the letter “S”, in the Word “F-I-R-S-T”

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

1. SINCERELY.

Sincerity turns words into deeds.

- “My little children, let us **NOT** love in word, **NEITHER** in tongue; but in **DEED** and in **TRUTH**.” ([1Jn.3:18](#))

So our teaching is done in all sincerity...

- “In **ALL** things shewing thyself a **PATTERN** of good works: **IN** doctrine shewing **UN**corruptness, gravity, **SINCERITY**,” ([Titus 2:7](#))

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

2. SCRIPTURALLY (that is, In strict compliance with the Word of God).

Scripturally, In being saved –

- by **Hearing** ([Rom.10:17](#)) / **Believing** ([Jn.8:24](#); [Heb.11:6](#)) / **Repenting** ([Lk.13:3](#)) / **Confessing** ([Acts 8:37](#); [Rom.10:8-10](#)) / Being **Baptized** ([Gal.3:26-27](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [Acts 22:16](#)) And Remaining **Faithful** ([Rev.2:10](#); [Matt.24:13](#)).

The Bible says,

- “But though **WE** (that is, the apostles), or an **ANGEL** from heaven, Preach **ANY** other **GOSPEL** unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him **BE ACCURSED**.
⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, If any **MAN** Preach **ANY** other **GOSPEL** unto you than that ye have received, let him **BE ACCURSED**.” ([Gal.1:8-9](#))

Scripturally, In worship and work...

- “**ADD** thou **NOT** unto **His** **Words**, lest He **REPROVE** thee, and thou be found a **LIAR**.” ([Prov.30:6](#))
- “Whosoever **TRANSGRESSETH**, and abideth **NOT** **IN** the doctrine **OF** Christ, Hath **NOT** God.” ([2Jn.vs.9](#))

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

3. SPIRITUALLY.

Seriously right with self, others, and God FIRST.

- “For the **Grace of God**, that **BRINGETH** salvation, hath **APPEARED** to **ALL** men, **TEACHING** us that, **DENYING** ungodliness and worldly lusts, we **SHOULD LIVE** soberly, righteously, and godly, **IN** this **PRESENT** world;” ([Titus 2:11-12](#))
- “For to be **CARNALLY** minged, is **DEATH**; but to be **SPIRITUALLY** minged, is **LIFE** and **PEACE**.” ([Rom.8:6](#))

Let's Consider Some Adverbs that begin with the letter,

V. "T" that support the principles, which Involve FIRST priorities with God

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

1. TRUSTINGLY.

Trust God in every moment of your life.

- The Psalmist said, "**The Lord IS ON MY SIDE**; I will **NOT** fear: **WHAT** can man **DO** unto me?" ([Psa.118:6](#))
- "**TRUST** in the Lord with **ALL** thine **HEART**;
and lean **NOT** unto thine **OWN** understanding.
⁶ In **ALL** thy ways **ACKNOWLEDGE** Him, and **HE** shall **DIRECT** thy paths." ([Prov.3:5-6](#))

We **CAN** Trust His Promises,

- "For **ALL** the **PROMISES** of God, **IN** Him, are **YEA**, and **IN** Him, **AMEN**,
UNTO the **GLORY** of God, by us." ([2Cor.1:20](#))
- "**FAITHFUL** is **HE** that **CALLETH** you, **WHO** also will **DO IT**." ([1Thess.5:24](#))

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

2. TIRELESSLY.

Not falter or fail, in our soul's great effort.

- "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about, with so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us lay aside every weight, and the sin, which doth so easily beset us,
and let us **RUN** with patience, the **RACE** that is set before us," ([Heb.12:1](#))

We can be assured, from the results of Tirelessness.

- "let us **NOT** be weary in **WELL** doing:
for in due season, we **SHALL REAP**, **IF** we faint **NOT**." ([Gal.6:9](#))

To Seek God FIRST, we need to Do so,

3. TRIUMPHANTLY.

At the end of faithful service, the apostle Paul said,

- "I have **FOUGHT** a good fight, I have **FINISHED** my course, I have **KEPT** the faith:
⁸ henceforth there is **LAI D UP** for me, a **CROWN** of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall **GIVE** me at that day:
and **NOT** to me only, **BUT** unto all them also, that **LOVE** His appearing." ([2Tim.4:7-8](#))

In [Rev.2:10](#), we find the Savior's encouragement...

- "Fear **NONE** of those things, which thou shalt **SUFFER**:
BEHOLD, the devil shall **CAST** some of you into prison, that ye may be **TRIED**;
and ye shall have **TRIBULATION** ten days:
BE thou **FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH**, and I will **GIVE** thee, a **CROWN** of **LIFE**." ([Rev.2:10](#))
- "To him that **OVERCOMETH**, will I **GRANT** to sit **WITH** Me, **IN** My Throne,
even as I also **OVERCAME**, and am set down **WITH** My Father, **IN** His throne." ([Rev.3:21](#))

IN-CONCLUSION:

1. May God help us, to put God and His Word ([Matt.6:33](#)), and those things that belong to Him ([Matt.22:21](#)), **FIRST** (above all else).

2. **Is Going to Heaven the foremost objective of our lives?**

Because there are only two seeking our affections (God and the devil), **WHEN** we **DON'T** place God **FIRST** in our lives, He **IS** necessarily **LAST** in our lives.

Isn't that a sobering thought!

- By our **CHOICES**, we could place God **LAST** in our daily decisions, because those decisions were NOT in harmony with God's Word ([Lk.6:46](#); [Matt.7:21-23](#)).
- By our **CHOICES**, we could place God **LAST** on the first day of the week (Sunday) Because we failed to assemble with the saints ([Heb.10:24-31](#)), and worship God in Spirit and in Truth ([Jn.4:24](#)), when we Could and Should have...

Aside from those who are contagiously ill and from a medical standpoint, are just not able to assemble, Some, when they have company, when they get the sniffles, when they are just too tired to get out of bed, or need to work secularly, will readily miss worship service, without much thought.

...But after careful consideration of [Lk.14:17-24](#), I don't think the Lord will accept such **EXCUSES**.

3. **IF** we've never begun to serve God **FIRST** with the **HIGHEST** of **Priorities**, we can do so by, Hearing ([Rom.10:17](#)), Believing ([Heb.11:6](#)), Repenting ([Lk.13:3](#)), Confessing ([Acts 8:37](#)), Being Baptized ([1Pet.3:21](#)), and **living faithfully EACH and EVERY day** ([Matt.24:13](#)).

4. **IF** we once begun, but have allowed this to slip to **LAST** place, repent and do better with God's help ([Acts 8:22-24](#)).

DECIDE to always, **ALWAYS**, put **God FIRST**, today and forever more.

**The Lord invites you, we wait to assist you.
If you have a spiritual Need, please Come,
As together we stand and sing.**