

# God First – Divine Order

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## Matthew 6:25-33

*<sup>25</sup>"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? <sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

I heard a story about a dog who had to have the front left leg amputated. After surgery, the dog was lifted down from the table. As he tried to walk he fell. With a struggle, it got back up on its three good legs and wobbled as it took a step. Then it took a few more steps and within minutes it was walking and running, having adjusted to its new life with three legs, and relieved to be free of the pain from its diseased appendage.

As far as I know, cows don't complain or get angry when they are moved from one pasture to another. Fish don't grow resentful or distressed if the current takes them to new water. Cows still graze, fish still swim.

It seems that animals and plants take change as a fact of life, and move forward. What a powerful lesson for us humans to learn. How quickly we are to chase one alluring image after another as each ends in a flicker of shallow disappointment.

We seem ever discontent: we want more, and the more we get the more we want. We want to do more; and the more we do, the more that needs to be done. We want to be more; and the more we become, the more we want to be.

I have certainly gotten caught up in this mirage of the physical world. After years of getting, doing, and becoming, sometimes it's good to step off that treadmill, take a deep breath, and appreciate who we are, what we're doing, and what we have right now.

It's as though we are peering into the night's sky, into the depths of the vast Universe of countless stars, and feeling insignificant and lost as we contemplate how we fit into the infinity that stretches before us. The irony is that half of infinity lies before us and half behind.

Right where we are physically and spiritually is the hub of the Universe. So in this sense the universe really does revolve around us! - at least that's what our egos want to believe.

Even beyond the physical Universe, right where we are is the nexus of where our outer space and inner space coincide.

Sometimes we need to take our eyes off our outer space and see the awe and wonder of our inner selves. Although God is everywhere at all times, it is the inner look that stirs the soul to even greater heights than any miracle of God's physical Creation.

The peace and joy we feel from experiencing the beauty of God's outer Creation, begins internally.

By being conscious of our inner spiritual nature, the harmony within, and the unchanging nature of Spirit, then we can more easily tolerate the changes and flux that occur in our outer world.

Animals and plants do not have the dual natures to contend with. They are not capable of isolating themselves from God. Mankind is quick to move into the illusion that we are separate from God - that we need to do things, get things, and become things in order to be complete. We tend to look outward first for answers and solutions.

In Proverbs 3:5 we are told: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.* Our human nature tends to look to 'lean on our own understanding'. We prefer to do things our own way. We tend to listen to others and draw guidance from whoever speaks the loudest. We look to scientists, politicians, philosophers, and religious leaders for inspiration and answers. We don't trust moving within and waiting for Spirit to stir within us. It is a strange and unfamiliar protocol. When things go wrong, we look 'out there' for answers.

Yet it is by putting God first, by looking within to that Christ light, we move passed the limitations of form to the formless universe of Spirit.

Through the Bible Spirit teaches us to put God first. Proverbs 3:6 *In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.* I have been taught to go to God first, then to man as God directs. To put God first means to acknowledge and be responsive to the Presence that made us, moves through us, and in which we have our being. It means to act, speak, feel, and think from our highest nature, and allow God's will to unfold through us. To put God first means that going within becomes our first choice of actions.

It means to focus on God. Sailors for eons have used the North Star as their Pole Star, their guiding light, their beacon for knowing where to go, their standard for celestial navigation. Putting God first means to turn our thoughts inward and make God the Pole Star of our life, our Source for guidance and spiritual navigation. When we focus on God, on indwelling Spirit, then all things unneeded fall easily away and everything we require is drawn to us. When we know where we are going under divine guidance, answers to questions become quickly apparent.

Seek God first. That is what Jesus taught: seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things - the abundance in health, prosperity, joy, love, and peace - shall be added unto you.

When we focus on God and put God first, the promise therefore is that all we need will come to us without having to focus in that direction. We don't have to worry about debt or finances, or

disease, or relationships. We don't need to be concerned with our job or clothing, or whether we look fat in these pants, or any other aspect of our physical appearance. We needn't be anxious about arriving on time or looking good, or sounding smart, or any of the other thousands of things the ego loves to indulge in. Our task is to seek the kingdom of God and put God first in our lives. When we do, completion and joy follow.

Putting God first allows our life circumstances to flow out of God's will rather than trying to use God to change our life circumstances. Worry, concern, disappointment, self-deprecation all flow away. When we turn to God first we live in joy: ease replaces struggle; love supplants fear.

The aim is to not focus on our challenges, not to look at our lack, disease, and our limitations. They are distractions - illusions stemming from a belief that we are separate from God, somehow distinct from the perfection that is God and what God created. Eckhart Tolle calls this state 'collective insanity', or a dysfunction of the human mind. It is our human mind that manifests and sustains anything imperfect in our bodies and in the world we see. Whatever we give our mental energies becomes more important, bigger, and more powerful.

The challenge therefore, as difficult as it is at times, is to see only God, focus only on God and God's kingdom. If we have a challenge, let go of it, stop picking it up and handling it; you just get more of it all over you.

When we put God first we start the journey of changing the habitual manner in how we react to our world. It is like the dog with the amputated leg. When we remove the habits of fear, worry, prejudice, hatred, and judgment, we will stumble at first. They have been our crutches.

But soon we learn to walk without them. More importantly, we discover that not only can we walk and live more fully without those crutches but we realize that they were never meant to be a part of us. Without our negative and dark habits we are more balanced, more flexible, and more resilient as we let God flow through us as peace, love, joy, strength, and confidence.

When we trust God and put God first we can release the desire to manipulate others and control events. Our circumstances and situations in life will always change, but the truth of who we are - a child of God, a spiritual being having a human experience - will never change. Our pastures may change, like the cows'; the currents of Life may take us to new waters, but who we are never changes.

A simple technique that helps me is this: at times just the word "Light" is enough to refocus our attention on Spirit. Rather than profanity erupting from our lips, let the word "Light" become a single-word prayer for God's Presence and power in our life at that moment. Let the word "Light" represent God's love guiding us and lighting our way so that we can see clearly the next step. Let "Light" affirm that the burden is lifted, the yoke is easy. Let

“Light” be a wake-up call to our consciousness that the Christ Light within is providing illumination and power.

We cannot focus on two things at the same time. Women, more so than men, are adept at alternating between thoughts, but we cannot hold two diverse thoughts in our minds at the same time. We cannot focus our eyes on more than one spot at a time. Through peripheral vision we can recognize some things outside the focal point, and we can move our eyes rapidly from one object to another; but we can only focus on one thing at a time.

This is true with God. Jesus said it this way: we cannot serve two masters, we cannot serve both God and Mammon, or Money, or the things of this world. We can either focus on the kingdom of God or the kingdom of man. We can think of God or think of ourselves. May our prayer be, “O Lord of my being, live Your life through me; express Your Will through me. Live through me as me, right now. Teach me what I need to know; heal me of everything that needs to be healed. ”

Let us pray...