

PRAY FIRST

Ryland Walter | January 6-7, 2024
Week 1: Putting God First Through Prayer

_____ prayed first

But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.
Luke 5:16 (NLT)

- God must be _____

In the beginning God... Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.

But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. Genesis 4:2-5 (NIV)

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:1-3 (NIV)

- We put God first by giving Him _____

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God in first place in your life. Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the best part of everything you produce.
Then he will fill your barns with grain,
and your vats will overflow with good wine.
Proverbs 3:9-10 (NLT)

- The first has _____ to determine the rest

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Why Prayer and Fasting?

When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. ¹⁶ I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him."

¹⁷ "You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." ¹⁸ Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment. Matthew 17:14-18 (NIV)

Unbelieving: _____ from God

Perverse: Too _____ to the world

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting" Mark 9:28-29 (NIV)

Prayer _____ us to God

Fasting _____ us from the World

21 Day Prayer & Fasting Challenge

Personal Aspect:
Pray First Guide
Fasting Plan

Church-Wide Aspect:
Daily Prayer Emphasis
Worship Services

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever. Psalm 23 (NKJV)

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- We put God first by giving Him the first of everything

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Unbelieving: Disconnected from God

Perverse: Too connected to the world

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting" Mark 9:28-29 (NIV)

Prayer connects us to God

Fasting disconnects us from the World

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