

Devotional: Food For Thought Series

Title: Is Your Life Prioritized?

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Is your life prioritized? Another way to put it is: Are your steps ordered? What prompted me to put together this devotional was that I have witness many of my family members, friends and co-workers making questionable or ill-advised decisions that will affect their current situation and/or future endeavors. Without having some way of prioritizing how we assess and resolve issues, this could lead to unnecessary misery in our daily lives. Especially during tough times, such as the current epidemic that we are in, we should be careful about prioritizing the choices that we are making.

Based on studying the scriptures, if you haven't already, I would like to recommend that we all prioritize our daily lives according to the following order:

1. Put God first in your life!
2. Family comes next
3. Maintain a job or income earning business
4. All other activities

Putting God first in your life is the key to a more happy, productive and well-ordered life. We all have made choices where God may not have been involved in the decision-making process. When you include God first in your daily decision making, you will definitely make better choices. There are many scriptures in the bible that let us know that God should be at the head of our life. The first of the Ten Commandments found in **Exodus 20:3** "**You shall have no other gods before Me.**" Take a look at **Colossians 3:17** "**And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**"

Some of us spoil our spouses and/or children and spend every waking moment trying to please them, but if we look above, this is fine as long as it is not placed as a priority that is above God. People do not realize that their undying pursuit of money (whether it be a job or business that they own) could be a form of worshiping something other than God our Father. If you look above, if things are done in the proper order, your job would be item number 3 on the priority list. Other individuals are hung up on the pursuit of happiness and yes this includes attending social and sporting events such as baseball, basketball and football to name a few. Some of us put more emphasis on going to one of these events than attending worship services. There is nothing wrong with the pursuit of happiness as long as you keep this in the proper order as listed above.

Developing a personal relationship with God our Father in heaven through Jesus Christ and getting our priorities in order is definitely keys to being successful in reaching our goal of receiving eternal life. I hope that you have your priorities in order and if not, make the necessary adjustments. Let me reiterate:

1. Put God first in your life. How do you do this? With love, for it states in **John 14:15** **“If you love me, keep my commandments.”**
2. Family comes next. (If you love God, you will take care of your family.) **1st Timothy 5:8** **“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”**
3. Maintain a job (In order to take care of your family, you need a job or own a business, even if it is hustling aluminum cans.) Even Adam was put to work as stated in **Genesis 2:15** **“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”**
4. All other activities (These activities can be enjoyed if the first 3 have been correctly prioritized; for God put us on this earth to be happy.) **Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 reads: 12 I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, 13 and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor – it is the gift of God.**

In closing:

My brothers and sisters; keep in mind that everything that we do for each other should be with love. **For without love anything that you do is meaningless; for God is love.** Yes, when it comes to being a Christian or a child of God – **It’s about love and prioritizing our daily activities!**

To recap:

1. You must prioritize who should come 1st in your life. I hope that you have chosen God.
2. Whose will are you doing in your daily life. I hope that you are doing God’s will.
3. The things that you are doing on a daily basis. Are they being done out of love? I hope the answer is YES.

I would like to thank the church leadership for giving me this opportunity to give this devotional. I hope that my words have given you motivation to continue to work on strengthening your relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That relationship should always be built on the foundation of love.

The leadership at Crowder is always here for you if you need counseling or words of encouragement.