Making God Our First Priority | Practical Steps

When it comes to making God our priority, there are several logical reasons to do so; 
**One:** He created the purpose, plan and practice for our life before our existence came to be (Jer. 1:5). 
**Two:** He desires to have a true friendship with us (John 15:15). 
**Three:** The closer we draw to Him, the closer He will draw to us (James 4:8).

Having examined the reason for making God our first priority, let’s now look at what it means to make Him our first priority. An accurate understanding of what it means to make God first priority could be summed up with three words; **consideration, position and approval.** 
When we consider God first, we use His word and will as a double filter for all of our thoughts. As our position with God is of the highest priority, our actions are governed by how they will positively or negatively effect our position with God. Should the approval of God mean more to us than that of all others, then we will live our lives in such a way that pleases Him in all aspects.

Now that we have established what is means to make God our first priority, let’s endeavor to find ways and means whereby we can put Him first.

**I. Prayer** - Our communication with God is paramount. It is through prayer that we confess our faults, express our thanks, request our needs and profess our faith. We should pray daily because each of those points change daily. **References: Psalm 55:17; Matthew 6:5-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:17,19**

**II. Read/Study the Word** - It is through the word of God that we receive instruction, inspiration and insight. As we study the word we gain impartation from the Holy Spirit that helps to shape our paradigms and practices. **References: Psalm 119:105; Matthew 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 3:15-18**

**III. Meditation** - When we’ve prayed for understanding and then carefully read the Bible, a natural next step is to think about what we’ve read and how it relates to the situations in our life. That’s what biblical meditation is all about. It’s not about emptying our minds or relaxation techniques or mystical experiences at all. It’s directed thinking, reflection, contemplation or concentration and it helps make prayer and Bible study meaningful.

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**JRT’s Life Priority Ranking**

- **GOD is first** because He is the creator of my being
- I am **second** because I’m the steward of my being
- My spouse is **third** because they are my partner in being
- My children/family are **fourth** because they bring continuation or context to my being
- My career/education is **fifth** because it brings mutual benefit to my being
- My friendships/community come **sixth** because they expand the context of my being
- My ministry comes **seventh** because it is the sum total of my being working in concert to serve humanity.
instead of mechanical, inspiring rather than superficial. References: Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:97-104; Proverbs 4:26; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; 4:8; Colossians 3:1-2

IV. **Fasting** - The Bible has many examples of people of God who voluntarily went without food and drink for a time to humble themselves and draw close to God. Christ said His disciples would fast and explained that particularly vexing situations can sometimes only be dealt with by prayer and fasting. In that way, fasting can be looked on as a power tool for making God our first priority. Biblical fasting is not for show, nor is it to try to get something from others or to try to force God to do what we want. Fasting should first and foremost be about personally drawing near to God. It should also be about compassion and sharing with others. Since the Creator God is the source of all power, drawing closer to Him and casting our cares and worries on Him will give us the spiritual strength we need, even while feeling physically weak. References: Ester 4:16; Isaiah 58:6-7; Matthew 9:15; 1 Peter 5:6-7

V. **Worship** - Our worship of God means showing our appreciation of God’s worth. God wants us to worship Him in truth. We do this by honoring Him, serving Him and giving heed to His instructions. Our worship of God is shown in how we live our daily lives. True worship of God involves nothing short of the inward transformation of the human heart by faith in Jesus Christ, His sacrifice while having Christ live in us through the Holy Spirit to help us obey. External worship practices alone are inadequate. God is looking for those who will worship Him in spirit, from a converted and transformed heart. References: Matthew 4:10; John 4:23-24; Romans 12:1; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 5:8-14

VI. **Fellowship** - Biblical fellowship is a three-way relationship between us, God and His people. God put His people in His Church to support, encourage and learn from each other. Of course we also can offend and hurt each other, but one of His goals is for us to learn to reconcile and to get along. In that way, the Church is a workshop for living His way of life. God puts us each in His Church where He wants us, with our own specific part to play. God warns us not to "neglect our meeting together" because we so desperately need to encourage each other to outbursts of love and good deeds. References: Ecclesiastes 4:10; Acts 2:42; Philippians 2:1-4; 1 John 1:7

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