

## FIRST PRIORITY

19/5/15

*The rapid expansion of technology, knowledge and materialism, has made it more confusing for Christians to get their scriptural priorities in order. As a result, many are fighting the wrong battle, investing their time in natural rewards rather than spiritual blessing. The Lord knew of the problems of this age long before it arrived. As a result, he has offered clear and logical scriptural directions, to help us live according to the very personal priorities, which are prepared for us. Not surprisingly, we have a job to do for God.*

*The bible defines that our greatest priority must relate to maintaining a spiritually active life (this is our top calling... all the time). God's truth and strength need to be revealed to the world... billions of lives are exposed to needless death every minute of every day. The teachings of Jesus reinforce his personal concerns... **LUK 24:47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name **among all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem. The first priority (our God given role), is to offer to save people from certain death.*

*There is a lifestyle offered to bring about the best results possible. **1TIM 4:16** Take heed (attention) **unto thyself**, and unto the **doctrine** (scriptural teaching); **continue** in them (remain steadfast): for in doing this thou shalt **both save thyself**, and them that **hear thee**. Secure and revive yourself through the Spirit first of all; otherwise you won't be able to secure others... the top priority. Consider the warning you get every time you fly on a plane. In an emergency, we are instructed to place the oxygen mask over our own face before we even think about assisting others! This is good advice as it is practical and it works; just like God's advice.*

← *We need to activate intellectual and spiritual resources before we can share with others. **2TIM 2:15** Study to shew thyself **approved** unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **JOH 16:13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into **all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that shall he speak*: and he will shew you things to come. Not just for our sake, but for the sake of all those who are part of our lives, both now and in the future... both in and out of the church. The Spirit leads to all truth, but it needs to be activated: pull it to you... use it.*

*Here is another verse revealing the same effective priority. **MAT 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his **righteousness** (conditions acceptable to God); and all **these things** (needs of life) shall be added unto you. It is both revealed and promised, that if we boldly step out in faith (prioritise the options of the day), God will bring natural blessings to us, rather than us seeking them out. **ZEC 4:6** ...Not by **might**, nor by **power**, but by **my spirit**, saith the **LORD** of hosts. Hunting down wealth, good health, romance etc., as a priority, will interfere with God's ability to bless you abundantly. It will also limit your time and ability to assist Jesus Christ. Boldness towards God, comes from applying the correct priority, by trusting and using the Spirit... not searching for it (we already have it in us). Like in an aircraft... the oxygen mask dangles before us as needed.*

*\*Spiritual health... If we don't feed ourselves spiritually, we won't have the resources or necessary motivation to share with others. This is why we read our bible and pray daily. Prayer is a means to an end, but is not the end product in itself. We pray for results and spiritual restoration... our faith should see this converted into various God breathed outcomes. Not just the contentment of knowing we prayed. **JAM 2:16** And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, **be ye warmed** and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it profit*? Prayer needs bold actions and expectation; an ongoing state of hope at the least. Words without actions can be meaningless. Give people the oxygen mask.*

← *\*Natural health... If we don't look after our own health and become sick, we aren't much use to our friends or contacts. This is why we do some exercise and try to eat good food. If we don't get sufficient rest, we risk being grumpy or unsociable. This is why we try to get the right amount of sleep. Also, we want our lifestyle to be a testimony, so that people under our influence will take care of themselves also... imitate our successes.*

*\*Emotional health... If we don't make the effort to work through our own emotional needs or wounds, we end up reacting to others instead of being in a position to minister to them. Likewise, forgiveness of others can only come from a healthy lifestyle. **3JOH 1:2** Beloved, I wish **above all things** that thou mayest **prosper** (succeed) and be in **health** (physical and mental wellbeing), even as thy soul prospereth. Notice the priority... as your soul prospers, not as your bank account, romantic life or personal interests prosper! Some Christians insist on putting themselves at the bottom of their priority list. A false sense of piety can be dangerous. We are far better placed to serve others when our basic needs are met and we are living a scripturally balanced life.*

← *God's priority is that we should live... **JER 29:11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the **LORD**, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an **expected end** (eternal life).*