

ABOVE ALL THINGS

The term 'above all things' is mentioned four times in the King James version of the Bible. The significance of such terminology instructs us to set priorities... with these four commands taking the top four positions on the Christians 'must do' list. There are many important factors and all scriptures are important in their correct context, but few scriptures contain directions which instruct us with such compelling certainty.

The first scripture reveals the absolute corruption of our natural mind when it is devoid of God's Spirit and direction.

JER 17:9 The heart is deceitful **above all things**, and desperately wicked: who can know it? *Our own nature is more deceitful than anything else in the world. Evil comes from wrong thinking and ignorance.*

Jesus Christ also confirmed this powerful truth.

MAR 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 All these evil things **come from within**, and defile the man. *The potential to do evil comes from within our own mind. This is why we all need the forgiving and mind renewing power of the Holy Spirit.*

The second scripture emphasises the great need to speak the truth... clear and honest words.

JAM 5:12 But **above all things**, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and *your* nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

Jesus quotes the power of truthful gospel words.

JOH 8:32 And ye shall know the **truth**, and the **truth** shall make you **free**. *Speaking the truth saves lives... yours and the hearers.*

The third scripture emphasises the great importance of knowing and exercising God's love... especially when dealing with the sins of others.

1PET 4:8 And **above all things** have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. *Sin kills... clearing sins brings life.*

Jesus reminds us of the power of loving faith.

MAT 6:14 For if ye **forgive** men their **trespasses**, your heavenly Father will also **forgive** you:

15 But if ye **forgive** not men their **trespasses**, neither will your Father **forgive** your **trespasses**. *Without love... we die!!*

JAM 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. *Love brings life... fervent charity is fervent love.*

The fourth scripture emphasises our natural health and prosperity as being God's first desire... but it has a condition.

3JOH 1:2 Beloved, I wish **above all things** that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. *Our soul needs to prosper for God's great desire to be fulfilled... that means we put God first.. in all situations.*

Jesus promises us unlimited compensation for the sacrifices we make while serving him.

MAR 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, *the compensation is in this lifetime... not just in the future.*

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold **now in this time**, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. *Put God first and prosperity is assured... why waste your time doing things in your own strength?*

It is clear from obey God's promises that we can have abundant blessing and happiness ... apply the four principles above and you will never lack. anything!!