

# PRIORITY

1.- GOD

2.-

3.-

SERIE FOR HOUSE OF PEACE

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

EAGLES CHRISTIAN FAMILY CENTER

# WHEN YOU DIE, WILL IT BE SAID THAT YOU PUT GOD FIRST?

*Never before had there been a king like Josiah, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and soul and strength, obeying all the laws of Moses. And there has never been a king like him since. (2 Kings 23:25 NLT).*

## INTRODUCTION:

What will be said of us when we die? What opinion will God have? What legacy will we have left behind? Thousands of years later, we still read the story of a king named Josiah who continues to be an inspiration for us. He did many things that are recorded in this book. He brought reform to his people, and a period of blessing and progress in his society. But, all of his actions were the product of his conviction to put God first in his life. The principle of "God first" formed his character and guided his life actions.

### A. IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN, GOD WAS FIRST. (Gen 2:16-17).

The basis of success is for God to be first in our lives. The first couple was given instructions to put God first, to enjoy everything, but to not touch what was God's (the tree of good and evil). Enjoy, but put God first.

### B. IN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, GOD IS FIRST. (Ex. 20:2-3).

The commandment tells us to not idolatry, but idolatry continues to be practiced. There are many things that can become our priority and they can become an idol: anything that takes God's place. (1 John 5:21)

### C. HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M WORSHIPING GOD? (Mark 12:30-31)

Who or what occupies the first place in our heart, mind, and soul?

- Whatever you seek first is what you worship.
- Whatever gives you a sense of confidence or identity, that's what you worship.
- Whatever you run to when you have problems, that's what you worship.
- If you think about God first in the midst of problems, that's what you worship.
- Whatever you give all of your energy to, that's what you worship.

### D. WE HONOR GOD FIRST BY GIVING HIM WHAT'S FIRST. (Exodus 23:19)

- One of the keys to know what you are worshiping is first fruits. What do you give the first fruits of your money to? What do you give the first fruits of your time to?
- The first things are very important to God. The first of your day, strength, time, etc.
- The first-born. God says that the first things belong to Him. God asks for the first-born 16 times in the Bible. (Exodus 13:2).
- **Why is the first so important to God?** Because that's the principle that reconciled us with God. He gave His first-born son Jesus Christ to save us. He gave His first son and now He has millions of children.

- **He should be first in your life.** He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. When you put Him in first place in your life, everything falls into place. God first in your home, in your day, in prayer, in your finances, in your service, and in your week. **(Exodus 13:12-13)**. We shouldn't give him the end.
- When you give the best of your day to Him praying, He makes your prayers take effect.
- There are people who think that the first day of the week is Monday, and that's why they give their first to their job. Others believe it is Friday and give their best to partying. When the first day of the week is Sunday, we should begin the week in the house of God, giving Him our first fruits of our time, worship, tithes and offerings, and service. We begin by giving Him the best, and He blesses the rest of the week.

**E. WHEN YOU PUT GOD FIRST, THERE IS A DIVINE ORDER. (Matthew 6:33)**

This life is not about us, but about God. When we recognize what's first, we put an order of importance in our lives. For example, when you recognize that your spouse is before your friends, you are telling them that they are important. When you put God before your desires and likes and dedicate the first time of your day to Him, you are telling Him, "You are important to me." But, when the firsts are not recognized, a disorder and chaos is caused.

**CONCLUSION:** *What will be said of you when you die? Will you put God first in all*

*areas, loving them will all your heart, mind, soul, and strength? God wants to be first in your life like He was with King Josiah, because He doesn't want you to forget that everything comes from Him. If you put God first in your life, your family will be blessed. First thing's first, and then the blessings come. Begin by asking Jesus to come into your heart.*

**SALVATION PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

**INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:**

- In what area do you need to put God in first place?
- What occupies the first place in your life?
- Do you give the first of your time to God?
- Had you stopped praying or reading your Bible?

**PRACTICAL APPLICATION:**

- Ask God for forgiveness for the areas you had not put Him in first place.

# IN OUR FINANCES, GOD IS FIRST!

***Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.  
(Proverbs 3:9 NLT)***

**INTRODUCTION:** *We should put God first in all things: In our spiritual life, marriage, job, time, etc. This includes our finances. (10-10-80).*

## 1. THE FIRST IS BROUGHT TO THE HOUSE OF GOD.

- “As you harvest your crops, **bring the very best of the first harvest to the house of the Lord your God...** (Exodus 23:19 NLT) It’s not wherever you want, but the house of the Lord. It’s not only giving Him our time, strengths, prayer, etc. but also with our finances. It includes honoring God with all our possessions.
- You can help the poor, but after you bring the best of your first fruits to the house of God. (Prov. 3:9-10)
- When you honor God with your first fruits, He will make your checking accounts, spiritual, financial, social, and financial life be bursting.

## 2. COULD A HUMAN BEING STEAL FROM GOD? (Malachi 3:6-12)

- God can be stolen from by stealing from His wife (the church); it happens when we keep our tithes and offerings that belong to God.

## 3. HOW DO WE PUT GOD FIRST IN OUR FINANCES?

- Tithing. Tithes: the 10th percent.
- Tithing is not legalism, it’s life. We should give it out of gratitude, because God is first. God should be first in everything, even in our finances.
- Tithing is a spiritual door that opens for God to pour out blessing.

***Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in iTry it Put me to the test!  
(Malachi 3:10 NLT)***

## 4. TITHING EXISTS FOR TWO REASONS:

- **First, as a reminder.** Reminder that God is the owner of everything.
- **Second, as a test.** The test consists of testing our faith to see if He occupies the first place in our lives, and a demonstration of our faith.
- We should give our tithes before paying our bills. We should give it by faith. If you pay everything else first, and then tithes last (if you have leftovers), that’s not putting God first. Before paying any of your expenses, the first part of your check should be for God. Then, 10% for your savings and the rest for your expenses.

- Faith is required to give the first. God doesn't say, "I want sheep #12." No! He wants the first. He doesn't want contract #7 of your business. No! He wants first place and then He will bless the rest of your business deals.
- 5. THERE IS POWER IN PUTTING GOD FIRST.** *(1 Kings 17:12-14) God is not interested in our money, He's interested in our hearts.*
- It wasn't that the prophet needed that help, because God was already helping Him. Rather, it was because the widow needed a miracle and God wanted to bless Her.
  - "...but make a little bread for me first.", said the prophet to the widow, and she obeyed. The result was that she ate, her son ate, and the prophet ate. After that, there was always plenty. **(1 Kings 17:15-16)**
  - Those who are around you will be blessed because you put God first.
  - Everything is secure in God when you give Him the first. It's a divine principle to put Him in first place.

**CONCLUSION:** *If you give what's first to God, the heavens are open. It will leave a legacy for your children. First thing's first, then comes the blessing. Put God first in your time, day, finances, and mind and He will not hold back any flour (savings) or oil (needs).*

**SALVATION PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so that you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

**INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:**

- Does God reflect first place in your finances?
- What is the first thing God is asking you for?
- What do you prefer? The 100% without God's blessing or 90% with God's blessing?

**PRACTICAL APPLICATION:**

- If you hadn't been doing it, begin practicing the 10-10-80 principle. The first 10% is for God (tithes), the other 10% is for savings, and the remaining 80% is for everything else.

## 7 BLESSINGS OF PUTTING GOD FIRST

*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. "Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. (Malachi 3:10-12 NLT)*

**INTRODUCTION:** What are the first words that appear in the Bible? *In the beginning, God... (Gen. 1:1)*

- A. GOD FIRST! Tithes are a spiritual door to success,** since all our blessing is found in God. (*Mal. 3:7-10*)
- ***Our heart tends to turn to other things before God.*** In this passage of the Bible, we see how the entire nation became materialistic and had other gods. The same happens today and there is curse when we rob God. **When there is no blessing, there is curse.**
  - When we bring our tithes to the house of God, there is supply in it. In this case, that supply is the ability to pay for everything ACFC does: In this house we pay mortgage, employees, utilities, help missionaries around the world, rescue 100 kids from the street, etc. Thanks to tithes! Tithes bring blessing and that's why God tells us, "Put me to the test!" He wants to bless you in the following ways:
- B. THE 7 BLESSINGS OF PUTTING GOD FIRST ARE: (*Malachi 3:10-18*)**
1. ***Open heavens.* (*Mal. 3:10*).** We even have leftovers to bless others. It opens windows (**windows** of health, peace, a good home, friends, etc. It's not only money). They are things we cannot buy.
  2. ***Protection.* (*Mal. 3:11*)** The 90% brings more than 100% when we tithe. Logic tells us the opposite, but the Bible tells us that if we don't do it, the devourer takes 100%. We don't have protection, our car breaks down, our children get sick, etc.
  3. ***We are fertile soil.* (*Mal. 3:11*).** We are fertile soil because we tithe. Everything we choose to do will prosper them. We are not sterile. People will want to sow in you. God will use people to bless you.
  4. ***We are desirable.* (*Mal. 3:12*)** People will see your blessing and desire your peace, health, etc.
  5. ***Your name will be written in a book of memories.* (*Mal. 3:16*)**
    - Some people see that in verses 14 and 15, they were nagging on God because they didn't want to serve or obey God. But there was another group that feared God and obeyed Him and tithed. Their names were written in the book of memories. My name, my spouse's name, and my children's and generations names are written in the

book of memories. God looks for people to bless.

- The book of life is different. Salvation does not require tithes. Salvation comes from the blood of Christ. When we accept Him, our names are written in the Book of Life. But there is another book for those who have honored God. For example, Cornelius' name is written in the book of memories, the woman with an alabaster jar, the apostle and prophet and others from ACFC who adopted 100 kids, and your name. Because of that, He will send scholarships to your children, many clients for your business, etc.
- 6. We turn into a special treasure. (Mal. 3:17)**  
*2 characteristics of a treasure:*
- It is well protected and guarded. God sends angels around us to take care of us.
  - It is conserved for a long time. That's why we should also pray for our bodies so that we can be healthy.
- 7. We have discernment. (Mal. 3:18)** Whoever does not understand this part of the Bible doesn't understand the rest of it. They have closed heavens, they don't understand or distinguish between good and bad people, are easily manipulated, etc. But we know how to distinguish who to do business with or not. We will distinguish the voice of God.

**C. IN YOUR ABUNDANCE, DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE LORD YOUR GOD. (Deuteronomy 8:10-20)**

- All of this has to do with the trust we have in God. The majority of people don't trust in God. God wants to be first in every area, including the finances.

- May you never think that what you have achieved was done with your own strengths or energy. Everything we are is because God made us that.
- It's not only about money. True riches cannot be bought with money: your family and your family in Christ.

**CONCLUSION:** Don't forget about everything God has done for you. He is the one who rescued you and brought you to a good place. Give Him thanks and put Him in first place with your tithes so that you can begin to experience these 7 blessings.

**SALVATION PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me on the cross. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

**INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:**

- Is your name written in the book of life or book of memories?
- Why do you think it's important to have discernment?
- Have you tested God with your tithes? What was the result?

**PRACTICAL APPLICATION:**

- Share in the group a testimony of one of the 7 blessings of tithing that you have experienced.



There is a place for you