

Reading: Matthew 6: 32,33

Topic: The Blessing of
Putting God First

INTRODUCTION: In life, both natural and spiritual, there are people who are _____ of allowing themselves to surrender their _____ to God and to permit Him to be the Lord and Leader of their lives.

I. WANTING TO BE IN CONTROL:

A. The Human Will:

1. One of the things that God gave to human beings was the human _____ and the power of _____ to reason and make choices and decisions.
2. This human _____ and the power of _____ has led people to both blessings and disasters depending upon the decisions and choices that they make in life. Dt. 30:19

B. Control Issues:

1. There is something about the fallen human nature that wants to be in _____ and it is the biggest obstacle to the _____ of people's eternal souls. Pr. 29:23
2. When Lucifer, the shining one who was created perfect in beauty, was under the _____ of the Lord God Almighty, he was blessed in the Heavens, but when he decided that he wanted to be in _____ and be like God, he lost the blessing, he lost the position, and he will be lost _____. Is. 14:12-14
3. Lucifer became the devil, the _____ and the dragon, and now his goal is to get everyone to have the same _____ and attitude of stubbornness and rebellion, not allowing God to be in control.
Rev. 20:1-3,10

II. JESUS AS LORD:

A. Lord And Savior:

1. There are many people who want to have Jesus as their Savior, but not as their _____, for when Jesus becomes the _____ of one's life, it means that He is in control. 2 Pet. 3:18
2. In order for Jesus to be one's Savior, He must also be their _____, which means the _____ or the Master of one's life and activities. 2 Pet. 1:11

B. Every Knee Shall Bow:

1. Today, many people reject the authority and Lordship of Jesus Christ in their _____, but one day at the judgment, every individual will bow before Him and confess that Jesus is _____. Rom. 14:11
2. It is advisable to come to the realization that Jesus is _____ now, and then receive the blessings and benefits of His great salvation, rather than wait until the judgment when it will be too _____. Ph. 2:10,11

C. The Results:

1. The lives and testimonies of millions of people can attest to the great _____ and blessings that they have received since putting God in _____ of their lives. Ps. 40:1-3
2. The contrast of having ourselves and the devil in control of our _____ and then surrendering our will to Jesus and letting Him be in control, is indescribable. Jn. 10:10
3. Peace replaces anxiety and joy replaces _____ and condemnation. Is. 12:3

III. PUTTING GOD FIRST:

A. Being Led:

1. The Word of God gives much instruction to the children of God as to how to _____ and walk with God, and that instruction always advises us to put God _____ and let Him lead us. Rom. 8:1
2. Walking after the Spirit means that the Spirit of God is _____ us and we are following after Him who will _____ us into the realm of spiritual blessings. Gal. 5:22-25

B. The Flesh or The Spirit:

1. After we have been born again, we make daily choices whether to be _____ by the Spirit and let Jesus be in charge, or whether to push Jesus aside and let our fallen _____ flesh lead us. Rom. 8:13,14
2. Jesus made it clear that those who _____ after the things of the flesh will be disappointed, but for those who choose to put Jesus and His Kingdom _____, they will receive the blessings. Mt. 6:32,33

C. Example # 1:

1. The prophet Elijah was sent by God to the home of a _____ woman who was about to prepare her last meal for her and her son, and then they were preparing to _____ to death. I Kings 17:8-13
2. The man of God seemed like he was being selfish and inconsiderate by asking this _____ woman to make him something to eat first, but this was an open door to a big _____ for her. I Kings 17:14
3. When this lady obeyed God and put Him _____, the Lord responded by giving her and her son the blessing of an endless _____ supply for the entire famine. I Kings 17:15,16

D. Example # 2:

1. Jesus gave an illustration in His teaching concerning putting the _____ first and serving him ahead of ourselves. Lk. 17:7,8
2. After putting the Master first, the _____ then gets to enjoy the blessings also himself, thus the reinforcement of the pattern – put Jesus first and then the blessings will come to you.

CONCLUSION: All leaders and workers in the Kingdom of God need to put God _____ and be Spirit led daily, or else the _____ will be in charge and take the lead and that will rob us of the blessings that God had prepared for us.