

"Seek First The Kingdom of God"

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"

1. Jesus' Statements

When Jesus said "seek first the kingdom of God," he emphasized prioritizing spiritual values and God's rule in one's life. This teaching encourages individuals to prioritize their relationship with God, live according to moral and ethical principles, and trust in God's guidance for a meaningful and purposeful life. It suggests that by aligning one's priorities with spiritual values, other aspects of life will fall into place.

When Jesus said, "and everything else will be added to you," he was expressing the idea that when people prioritize their relationship with God and seek His kingdom first, other aspects of their lives—such as material needs, guidance, and blessings—will be taken care of by God. The emphasis is on trusting in God's provision and divine guidance while maintaining a focus on spiritual values. It conveys the idea that by seeking God's kingdom first, individuals can find fulfillment and have their essential needs met.

2. What it Takes

Seeking in the context of "seek first the kingdom of God" involves actively pursuing a connection with God and aligning one's life with spiritual principles. Examples of seeking might include:

- 1. Prayer:** Regularly engaging in prayer to communicate with and seek guidance from God.
- 2. Study of Scriptures:** Reading and reflecting on religious texts to understand and apply spiritual teachings.
- 3. Worship and Fellowship:** Participating in communal worship and fellowship to strengthen one's faith and connection with others who share similar beliefs.
- 4. Acts of Kindness:** Demonstrating love, compassion, and kindness towards others, reflecting the teachings of love and goodwill.
- 5. Moral Living:** Striving to live a life that aligns with ethical and moral principles, as taught by one's faith.
- 6. Service to Others:** Engaging in acts of service and charity, reflecting a commitment to helping those in need.
- 7. Self-Reflection:** Regularly examining one's actions, thoughts, and motives in the context of spiritual growth and improvement.

Seeking the kingdom of God involves a holistic approach to life, encompassing various aspects of personal and communal spirituality.

Here are more specific and practical ways to "seek the kingdom of God":

- 1. Daily Devotionals:** Set aside time each day for personal devotion, combining prayer, meditation, and reading religious texts to deepen your spiritual connection.
- 2. Attend Worship Services:** Regularly participate in religious services or gatherings to worship with others, fostering a sense of community and shared faith.
- 3. Join a Faith Community:** Become actively involved in a local faith community or church, engaging in activities, discussions, and events that promote spiritual growth.
- 4. Volunteer for Service:** Contribute your time and skills to charitable or community service projects, embodying the principles of love and compassion taught by your faith.
- 5. Practice Gratitude:** Cultivate an attitude of gratitude by regularly acknowledging and appreciating the blessings in your life, fostering a positive and thankful mindset.
- 6. Forgiveness and Reconciliation:** Strive to forgive others and seek reconciliation in relationships, reflecting the principles of forgiveness and love taught in many religious traditions.
- 7. Fasting and Reflection:** Periodically engage in fasting or other forms of self-discipline as a means of spiritual reflection and drawing closer to God.
- 8. Seeking Guidance in Decision-Making:** When faced with decisions, seek guidance through prayer and reflection, trusting in a higher wisdom to guide your choices.

Remember that these practices may vary based on religious traditions, but the overarching idea is to integrate spirituality into daily life.

3. God Sees Your Efforts

The assurance that God sees your efforts in seeking Him is often rooted in faith. While direct, tangible confirmation may not always be apparent, many religious traditions teach that God is omniscient and aware of the sincere intentions and actions of individuals. Here are a few considerations:

1. Faith and Trust: Believing in the divine nature of God includes trusting that He sees and knows your heart. Faith involves a deep conviction that your efforts are acknowledged by a higher power.

2. Scriptural Guidance: Many religious texts provide assurances that God is attentive to those who seek Him. Reflect on verses or teachings that emphasize God's awareness and concern for His followers.

3. Inner Peace and Transformation: As you sincerely seek God, you may experience a sense of inner peace, personal transformation, or a growing alignment with spiritual values. These can be indicators of a deeper connection with the divine.

4. Answered Prayers: While not every prayer may be answered in the way you expect, moments of clarity, guidance, or unexpected blessings can be seen as responses to your seeking.

5. Community Support: Engaging with a faith community can provide additional affirmation. Fellow believers, spiritual leaders, or mentors can offer insights and encouragement, reinforcing the idea that your efforts are recognized by God.

It's essential to approach your spiritual journey with patience and humility, understanding that the ways in which God communicates may be subtle and unique to each individual. Trusting in the process and maintaining a sincere and open heart can deepen your connection with the divine.

4. Ask and You Shall Receive

The statement "ask and you shall receive" is often associated with the idea of prayer and seeking from a divine source. Here are some ways to apply this principle in your spiritual life:

1. Prayer with Specific Requests:

Be specific in your prayers. Clearly articulate your needs, desires, and concerns to the divine. This clarity helps you focus your intentions and allows for a more targeted spiritual connection.

2. Align Requests with Spiritual Values:

Ensure that your requests align with your spiritual values and the principles taught in your faith. Seeking guidance for personal growth, wisdom, and opportunities to serve others can be in harmony with many religious teachings.

3. Express Gratitude in Advance:

Approach your requests with a sense of gratitude, as if you already have received what you are asking for. This positive and grateful mindset can enhance your spiritual outlook.

4. Pray with Faith and Belief:

Approach your prayers with faith and belief in the power of divine intervention. Trust that your requests are heard, and be open to the transformative impact of your prayers.

5. Engage in Persistent Prayer:

Persevere in your prayers. If a particular request is important to you, continue to bring it before the divine. Persistent and heartfelt prayer can reflect your sincere commitment.

6. Reflect on Intentions:

Regularly reflect on your intentions behind your requests. Ensure that your motivations are rooted in a desire for personal and spiritual growth rather than selfish or materialistic pursuits.

7. Express Gratitude for Responses:

When you perceive responses to your prayers, express gratitude. Acknowledge and appreciate the divine guidance, blessings, or insights that come your way.

Remember that the application of "ask and you shall receive" is intertwined with the principles of faith, humility, and alignment with spiritual values. Approach your requests with sincerity, and trust in the process of seeking and receiving from the divine.

Living your life with all mentioned here will be the answer to a lot of your questions. God created us to fully enjoy all his creation. It is up to us to take advantage and live a life with a purpose. If you have goals in life, such as buying a home, sending your kids to college or planning for a comfortable retirement, seek God and he will answer your prayers. As the matter of fact, with Jesus in your life, you will be guaranteed success and full enjoyment of his gifts. God knows what you want right now. But, seek for his kingdom first and everything else should be added to you.

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