

---

# Five "Firsts" For Spiritual Success



# Common in This Life

- Getting a good education/job/career, saving money, having friends, losing weight, staying healthy, overcoming smoking, etc.
- First steps, priorities, key principles, areas to emphasize, don't overlook, etc.

### 4 Basics of Saving Money

**Know your exact income and expenses**

**Create a budget**

**Automate bill paying to avoid late fees**

**Daily, weekly, and monthly check-ins**

### 6 STEPS to losing weight AFTER 40

GET HEALTHY 1

- 1 rule out underlying metabolic conditions**
- 2 strength train at least twice a week**
- 3 try doing HIIT workouts**
- 4 eat clean, protein-rich foods**
- 5 naturally detox your body**
- 6 try to get MORE sleep!**

### Now is the perfect time to stop smoking

You'll have the **best chance of quitting** for good if you:

- Know your triggers to smoke and plan for them**
- Manage your physical and mental health**
- Create new habits instead of smoking**

**AND**

- Ask your doctor** for low-cost NRT or stop-smoking medicine
- Talk to Quitline** to find strategies that work for you

**Call Quitline.137848** [quitline.org.au/coronavirus](http://quitline.org.au/coronavirus)

# Why?

---

- *“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.”* Lao Tzu
- Practical
- Foundational (“critical few”)
- Easier to build a habit with focus and practice





# An Ongoing Journey

---

## □ Phil. 3:7-14

- *11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*



# Spiritual “Success”?

---

## □ Ultimate “prize” - eternal life, hope of heaven

- 1 Cor. 9:24-25

- *24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

## □ Intermediate success

- Better family member, employee, citizen, fellow-Christian
- Better life now by resisting temptation

- James 4:7

- *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

- 1 Cor. 15:33

- *Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”*

# Five “Firsts”

---

## For the non-Christian

- Hear
- Believe
- Repent
- Confess Jesus
- Be baptized

## For the Christian

- First hour of the day
- First day of the week
- First portion of every paycheck
- First consideration in every decision
- First place in your heart



---

For the Non-Christian ...

---



# Hear

---

## □ Why

- Too many people don't have the time or interest

## □ How

- Sermons, website, home Bible study, personal study

## □ What

- God Is
- Bible is His Inspired Word
- Jesus is God's Son
- The gospel (man's sin, Jesus' atoning death on the cross)
- Necessity of belief and obedience



# Believe

---

## □ Why

- Salvation is not universal

## □ Challenges

- Credible evidence
- Evolution
- Implications for our life



# Repent

---

## □ Why

- All have sinned
  - Rom 3:23 *For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;*
  - Rom 5:12 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned*
- Can't continue to persist in sin while claiming you "believe"

## □ How

- Change of attitude, emotion (godly sorrow), behavior



# Confess Jesus

---

## □ Why

- Natural expression of your belief
- Rom. 10:8-11
  - *“...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus...”*

## □ How

- Jesus is Savior, but also “Lord”
- *he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord*
  - *the possessor and disposer of a thing*
  - *the owner; one who has control of the person, the master*



# Be baptized

---

## □ Why

- Associated with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection
  - Rom. 6:3-4 “...we also should walk in newness of life”
- Associated with forgiveness and salvation
  - Mark 16:16 “He who believes and is baptized will be saved...”

## □ How

- As a believer (not infant)
- In water (not Holy Spirit; Acts 10:47)
- Immersion (not sprinkling; John 3:23)
- In order to have forgiveness of sins (not because your sins already forgiven)
- To become a Christian (not a particular denom.)



---

For the Christian ...

---

---

Give God First Hour Of Each Day

---



# First Hour of Each Day

---

- "First" Hour
  - Whatever is the best time
- "Each Day" - Not just Sunday
- To Pray
  - Mark 1:35 (Jesus' example); 1 Thes. 5:17 (*"without ceasing"*)
- To Read and Meditate on the Scriptures
  - Psa. 119:33-40
  - Psa. 119:148
  - Psa. 1:1-2
- To Think on Good Things (especially in trying times)
  - Phil. 4:8



---

For the Christian:

Give God First Day Of Every Week

---



*"Early on the first  
day of the week ..."*

*Fellowship*

# First Day of Every Week

---

## □ "Every" week

- 1 Cor. 16:1-2 (in context of ch. 11 Lord's Supper, ch.12-14 assembling decently and in order)

## □ To Worship God

- Acts 20:7 "*... came together ...*"
- Psa. 122:1 "*I was glad ...*"

## □ To Encourage Brethren

- 1 Cor. 14:26 "*... for edification*"
- Col. 3:16 "*... teaching and admonishing one another...*"
- Heb. 10:24-25 "*... stir up love and good works...*"

---

# Give God The First Portion Of Every Paycheck



# First Portion of Every Paycheck

---

- “First” Portion – Not what’s left over
  
- “Every” Paycheck - As You have Prospered
  - 1 Cor. 16:2
  
- With Purpose of Heart
  - 2 Cor. 9:7 “... not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
  - 1 Chron. 29:1-14 “Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD ... But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You.”

---

# Give God The First Consideration In Every Decision



# First Consideration in Every Decision

- “First” Consideration – Not an after-thought
  
- “Every” Decision – Not just “religious” ones
  - What we say
  - How we dress
  - What we do
  - What we think, etc.
  
- Setting Priorities
  - Matt. 6:33-34 *“But seek first ..”*
  - Col. 3:1-2 *“... Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”*
  - Lk. 14:25-33 Family, self, count the cost

---

# Give God The First Place In Your Heart



# First Place in Your Heart

---

## □ “First” Place –

- Ex. 20 *“No other gods before me...”*

## □ “Your Heart” -

- Mark 12:30 *“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”*

## □ To Have Faith

- Psa. 37:5-6 *“... commit your way to the Lord. Trust also in Him...”*
- 1 Pet. 3:15 *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts...”*

## □ To Live in Hope

- 2 Thess. 2:16-17 *“... comfort your hearts...”*
- 2 Cor. 4:16-18 *“Therefore we do not lose heart...”*
- 1 Pet. 1:3 *“...begotten us again to a living hope...”*



# Conclusion

---

When we put  
**GOD FIRST,**  
all other things  
fall into their  
proper places.

sayingquotes.blogspot.com