

new PRIORITY

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”
(Matthew 6:33)*

Many times when we go into a new year we find ourselves setting goals for our lives. We allow ourselves to dream of what the future could hold for us, we make plans, put things on the calendar, write down vision statements, maybe you even cut pictures out of magazines and make yourself a vision board. All of these things are good, we should dream and try to achieve everything God has put inside of us this year. He created us for greatness, He created us to bring Heaven to Earth in all that we do and all that we are.

Perhaps you find yourself unable to dream, unable to ask for something new or different, maybe you can't imagine there is something good in store for you, maybe you are looking at your current circumstances and it doesn't look like you even have the means to pay bills let alone believe for a dream to come to pass. Regardless of the camp you find yourself in Jesus tells us all how we should be approaching anything that we do, “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

We seek His kingdom through prayer, reading the Bible, meditating on what we have read, journaling, being planted in church, surrounding ourselves with healthy community, spending time in worship and fasting. This by no means is an exhaustive list but these are all ways we can learn to put Him first, to work a new muscle and create healthy habits that will align our hearts with the Father. By doing these things we remove idols from the throne of our hearts that have tried to take God's place and it removes the fear that may be rendering us paralyzed and unable to take steps to become free and whole.

As we embark on a new year may we all have a new priority, a new way to keep ourselves centered; His kingdom. When we seek first His kingdom we obtain a new filter by which we make decisions. Before we create the vision board may we pray and ask God for His wisdom and direction. Before we add things to our calendar may we ask the Father if that is something He wants us to invest our time or money into. Before we start that relationship may we ask Him if this relationship is His best for us. Before we look for the new job may we ask if this transition is one He would have us make or if it's being made out of frustration or fear. When He is at the center of all we do He will add everything we need or lack. Perhaps our definition of "need" and "lack" will even change when He is our priority. We are no longer enamored with impressing people with the things we have, we are no longer striving to be successful to prove to the world we are powerful because God already calls us whole and complete, even without all those things. The only thing we begin to care about is what God says about us and being near Him.

When this becomes our new priority every day we are setting ourselves up to grow exponentially both spiritually but also emotionally and mentally. This year be mindful of where this falls in priorities, and actively protect this practice of seeking Him first.

PRAYER

FATHER I ASK THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME THE DESIRE TO SEEK YOU. DRAW ME CLOSER TO YOU, OPEN MY EARS TO HEAR YOUR VOICE AND MAKE MY SPIRIT HUNGRY FOR YOUR PRESENCE. TEACH ME YOUR WILL, SHUT DOORS THAT WILL KEEP ME FROM YOU, OPEN DOORS THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO PURSUE YOU. AS I SEEK YOU FIRST I TRUST YOU WILL PROVIDE ALL THAT I NEED BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT A GOD WHO SHOULD LIE BUT YOU KEEP YOUR WORD TO ME. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.