

First Things

In the Bible there is SEVEN times where God said: “Do This First,” and it will align you for blessings.

God says if you do these seven things first, My blessings will overtake you in this New Year.

III: If you were to drive your car into the curb hard enough, you will knock your wheels out of alignment. You may not be able to feel the difference until you get up to a higher speed and then the vehicle will begin to shake and you will have to get the front end aligned.

- This **misalignment** hinders your travel, you wobble and wear the tires out and do damage to the vehicle until you stop and get the alignment.
- You’re out of alignment and it’s not going to get any better until you get into alignment.

Some folks go to a chiropractor to get their back or joints into alignment. Once they do that, a lot of the discomfort stops and you can be mobile again.

Matt 6:33- “Seek first the Kingdom of God...”

1. This is the alignment of Priorities-

- You have to de-throne whatever stands between you and Jesus’ will.

1Thess. 5:12- “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **Spirit**, Soul, and Body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Notice the order of alignment – Spirit is 1st, the Soul 2nd, the Body 3rd.
- Too many times our order is our body first.
- That is what the fast is about – to correct and bring God’s alignment back into our lives.
- We get the flesh first, then our soul: mind, will, emotions; and leave the most important part of our being last – The Spirit man.

God’s priority is to seek first the Kingdom – and I will preserve your Spirit, Soul, and Body.

- If we will get the priority of the Kingdom first, our Spirit, Soul and Body will be blessed.
- The Christian life is not me 1st – it’s the Kingdom 1st!

- Too many believers never learn this order of God, they spend their entire lives on themselves and what they are pursuing in life, only to come to the end and still feel empty and never achieving satisfaction.

When you get into spiritual alignment with the Spirit first, then God will bless you with everything else you need in this life.

2. Alignment of Relationships:

Matt. 7:5- “You hypocrite, **first** cast out the beam out of your own eye; and then you will see clearly to cast out the splinter out of your brother’s eye.”

- We need to be concerned with our issues, problems, challenges we have in our own lives.
- We tend to criticize people that have an issue in their life that is comparable to a “toothpick” in their eye, when we have issues that are comparable to “logs” in our own eye.
- **It always easier to find fault with someone else to make ourselves feel better about ourselves.**
- **It’s clear to see what “They need to do!” rather than be aware of what “YOU need to be doing.”**
 - How they need to run their lives.
 - How they need to raise their children, when yours are really worse.

First – cast out the beam that’s in your own eye before you attempt to help someone else get their act together.

- If you’re the kind of person that is always attacking other people, pastors, saying hurtful and mean things – **YOU BETTER REMEMBER THAT GOD WILL JUDGE YOU MORE HARSHLY BECAUSE YOU ARE IGNORING YOUR OWN ISSUES – WHILE CONCERNING YOURSELF WITH SOMEONE ELSE’S SPLINTER.**

Matt. 7:1-2 “Judge not, that you not be judged. For with the judgment you judge, you shall be judged; and with the measure you measure out, it will be measured to you again.”

God will not bless those who criticize others as though they don’t have any issues themselves.

You need to deal with you first!

Matt 5:23-24 “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother/sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. **First** be reconciled to your brother/sister, and then come and offer your gift.”

- If you’re in a position of un-forgiveness, bitterness, strife or offense; it does you no good to give on offering.
I can hear someone saying right now: “OK, praise God, I’m not going to give cause the Lord told me not to give until I get it right, so I’m just not hold off.”
- NO – that’s not what the Lord said: “He said when you bring your gift to the altar and find you have offense, leave the gift there at the altar...- don’t take it back – the Lord doesn’t trust you to bring it back.
- God will hold your blessing up until you make it right and then it will be released to you.
- He didn’t say take it with you until you get it right, He said – leave it on the altar and **go make restitution and then the blessing will be released.**
- The gift left on the altar is an investment and an incentive for you to get it right and come back and offer it to God.

The Alignment of Relationship – it matters to God – we have to get along with people:

- We are into EXTREME INDIVIDUALISM in the day we are living.
- It’s all about me and Jesus; we have our own thing going!
- We need to align ourselves with the Lord so the relationships we have can be repaired & healed.

This year, if you want to get in line for the blessings: don’t ignore where your life is out of alignment, bring yourself to the Lord and allow Him to correct and align you with His Word.

Even if folks won’t reconcile with you, you’ve done your part and reached out to them and God sees that.

3. **Alignment of Authority-**

Matt 12:29- “How can one enter into a strong man’s house and spoil his good, except he **First** bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his house.”

This has to do with the fact that the devil has stolen from you:

- Relationships – money – health – dreams – focus – children – your peace.
- You can’t be passive with the devil – “The Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force.”

This year 2017- we must get in alignment with the authority we have in Christ and exercise that authority over the strong man that is messing with our lives.

Satan has your stuff in a storage unit with your name on it that he has stolen from you.

The Bible says if you want your stuff back: “Take authority and bind the strong man and don’t accept that it’s gone forever.”

- When you lose your keys – you look for them until you find them.
- When you lose your wallet – you look for it until you find it.
- When you lose your son or daughter – you must look for them until you find them.
- When you lose your spouse – you need to look for them and find them again.

The enemy wants you to come to the conclusion that you have lost it for so long – you will never get it back.

But the Bible says: “When the enemy comes against you, you are to bind him.”

Some of you need to get your:

- Joy back
- Your finances back
- Your family back.

Declare with me that you are taking back what the enemy has stolen and what the enemy has stolen: he has to restore 7 fold.

Prov. 6:30-31: “Men do not despise a thief, if he steals to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; but if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.”

4. Alignment of Heart-

Matt 22:36-39 “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And this is the **First** & great commandment. And the second is like unto it. You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

- God is saying for this year: “I really want you to be in alignment so I can bless you. I want to be able to open up MY treasures to you, and the windows of heaven and pour you out blessing you won’t have room enough to receive it.

But in order for that to happen: “**The First thing you have to do is get your heart aligned with ME being FIRST and love the Lord your God with ALL your heart.**”

- **What** you get **excited** about is what you activate!

- **What** you get **passionate** about is what fills your mind and life!

God says: I want your heart!

The First and great commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

- We are O.K. with loving God and even with loving our neighbor – BUT
 - God says to love yourself.
 - Realize HE loves you and it's not O.K. to downgrade, berate, belittle yourself, calling yourself ugly, stupid, inadequate.
 - It's not OK to hurt yourself and do yourself physical harm through cutting, suicide, eating disorders.

THIS IS NOT IN ALIGNMENT WITH WHAT GOD THINKS AND SAYS ABOUT YOU!

THAT IS NOT HIS VOICE.

Get your heart in alignment with God and love yourself as a child of God.

5. **Alignment of your Inner World-**

Matt. 23:26- “You blind Pharisee, cleanse **First** that which is inside the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.”

- This is the alignment of purity of your inner person.
- Many are occupied with what the outer person looks like, when it's the inner person that is most important.
- **The world feeds on what you are on the outside, but God feeds on what you are on the inside.**
- Rev. 3: 20- “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will fellowship with him and he with Me.”
- We have to clean the cup on the inside – our inner life to make room for HIM.

We can't go around thinking our holiness is in our outside.

We have to get cleansed on the inside and then things change on the outside.

When He cleanses you on the inside; you will want to dress modest, you will want to go to the right places and shun the questionable places.

It will be because you are pure on the inside and don't need the outward stuff.

6. Alignment with the Body of Christ-

John 20:19- “Then the same day at evening, being the First day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled...”

- We need to get in alignment with the body of Christ and don't just come to services hit – skip – or miss.
- **When you make your priority to be God's house and your worship and service with the rest of the Body of Christ this year – God is going to bless you on a new level.**

Jacob found God in a place and named it Beth el = “House of God.”

- He found that there are things that God will do for you in church, that He will not do for you by yourself.
- God has established His body, the church, His government.

There is nothing that can take the place of being in God's House with God's people:

1. Lev. 26: 8- “And five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.”

- You sitting beside your brother or sister in Christ makes you stronger than you are by yourself:
- Your **prayers** are stronger in agreement with your brother/sister than by yourself.
- Your **praise** is stronger because I'm with you.
- Your **faith** is stronger because of your brother/sister in this place today.
- Because you are in His presence with His Body; you are in the right place for a miracle today!

THIS IS THE HOUSE OF GOD – THE GATE OF HEAVEN & ANGELS ARE HERE!

III: There was a lady that contacted her pastor to inform him of certain Sundays that she would need off and not able to attend services: She said I'll need:

- The Sunday before Christmas and the Sunday after Christmas because I have to get ready for family to come and need the Sunday after to get over them being here.
- I need Easter Holiday and 4th of July Sunday off.
- I need Mother's Day Sunday off to go see my mother.
- I need Father's Day Sunday off to go see my father.
- I need three Sunday's off for school closings.
- Three Sundays off for family reunions.
- Five Sundays off for sick Sundays because I have five people in my family.
- Four Sundays off for business affairs.

- Four Sundays off for bad weather.
- One Sunday off for company that came in from out of town.
- Three Sundays off for TV specials.

So pastor, you can count on me for ½ of the Sundays per year to be with the congregation!

We need to take inventory of how we treat the assembling of ourselves together to worship.

We can see direct blessings in alignment with how you're aligned with the Body of Christ.

7. Alignment of Money-

Duet. 26:2- “You shall take of the **First of all the fruit of the earth**, which you shall bring of your land that the Lord your God gives to you, and shall put it in a basket and go to the place which the Lord God shall choose to place His name there.”

Prov. 3:9-10 “Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the **first fruits of all your increase**: and your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

- The tithe [10%] is the First offering to God – it is not the cost of admission to a gospel show.
- The tithe is not what you send to your poor cousin in another city, or your kid away at school.
- The tithe is not what you give to TV, internet or any other preacher you listen to.
- **The tithe belongs in the storehouse you call your church that feeds your soul and ministers to you and your family.**

God said: “**Bring it** to the place I have chosen.”

- **Offerings** go to anybody you want it to go to; **but the tithe belongs in the house!**

The Alignment of:

1. Priority
2. Relationships
3. Authority
4. Your Heart
5. Your Inner World
6. The Body of Christ
7. Your Finances

How many of you are interested in this year for the tidal wave of God's blessings to overtake YOU – YOUR FAMILY – and THIS CHURCH in a magnificent way?