

January 3

# God First!

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Reading: Matthew 6:19-34

*"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added to you" (Mt 6:33)*

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We need to give the first place to God in all areas of our life. We must seek the fulfilment of God's righteousness in all affairs. Did not Christ Jesus, who knew no sin, get baptized just to fulfil God's righteousness? (Mt 3:15). Let our aim in life be to please God in everything and love Him more than we love our parents and family members. It will disappoint Jesus if we hesitate to obey Him in anything for fear of relatives. He has pointedly said, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Mt 10:37). The Bible teaches us, "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Col 3:23).

Is our aim in life to please God like Jesus who said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work" (Jn 4:34)? Let us learn to give the best part of each day to God, not neglecting fasting and prayer. Meditating God's Word, sitting at His feet, is more important than even our basic food (Job 23:12).

Our main work is to confess Christ before men and win them for His Kingdom (Mt 10:32,33). Jesus warned, "Whoever is ashamed of Me and My Words in this...generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" (Mk 8:38). Let us examine whether we, who say we love God, take every effort to fulfil the Great Commission of Jesus Christ? (Mt 28:19,20). We cannot love both God and money. If God is first in our lives, we will lavishly spend money for the things of God. No man is fully converted until his purse is converted! (Mt 6:19-21).

There was a soldier in the French army by name Pierre Hurllet who was excellent in shooting. He saved money to build a house in a village with a lovely garden and a vineyard. He was looking forward to spending time in that house after his retirement. During war, the Germans captured that village and entered Pierre's house. The commander of the army ordered Pierre to shoot that house down as the Germans were inside that. Pierre instantly obeyed the orders and brought the house to the ground. Are we ready to give the best and the first to the Lord Jesus whom we say we love?

*Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee,  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise!  
(Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879)*