

*Put God First
Part 4*

***“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)***

Always we need to be careful how to spend our times and to live in a wise way so we will not be missing God’s blessings. To put God first is a wise decision that we should not forsake or keep aside. Inspired from the life of the disciples of Jesus and the pitfalls that they fall in we will learn how to put God first in our lives.

10 – Yoked with non believer: ⁵⁶ *A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."* ⁵⁷ *But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.* ⁵⁸ *A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."* *"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.* ⁵⁹ *About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."* ⁶⁰ *Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.* ⁶¹ *The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times."* ⁶² *And he went outside and wept bitterly."*

One of the important things those certain times the worker and the servant of God are not much aware of is his/her yoke with non believers. Contacts, friends, connections and various relationships with various people might work adversely in our lives and make us put God not in the first place of our lives.

As we read above that Peter when he denied Christ was in the mid of non-believers, those who does not believe in Christ or delight to follow His ways. Peter was weakened as he was surrounded with non believers and finally he found himself ashamed of Christ and finally denied him.

We don’t go to the non believers to spend time with them and befriend them because this has much harm for our lives. We go to them to preach the good news of Jesus to them. We tried to reach them with the gospel

and we do our best to tell them about the mercy of God and the mercy of Christ, but if they are unwilling to follow God then we don’t need to continue but to withdrew from them and avoid their company and their wicked fellowships.

Yoke and fellowship with non believers had various harmful aspects. The word of God tells us the following: ***“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.” (Psalm 1:1)*** Here we found clearly the flowing of the blessings of God in man’s life that put God first and does not fellowship with wrong people. God will bless those who put Him first and observe the following:

A- Does not walk in the counsel of the wicked: The man who does not seek and listen to the advice of the wicked people he is putting God first and is blessed by the Lord. Sometimes you may ask why there is no blessing of God in my life, or you may ask why I have problems in my life? To whom you are listening and who is your counsellor or adviser in the matter of yours? Many times when you have problem in your life, you go and ask people who do not know God and who does not know God’s word, then if you do that you are not putting God first and surely you will get the wrong advice and you will fall in troubles. There is an important point that you are not aware of, let me tell you about it. When you keep friendship and friends who do not know God, and you keep meeting them and fellowship with them, keep inviting them and they keep inviting you, then in that situation there is a constant exchange of wrong advices and dangerous opinions. Don’t say ‘No,’ ***“Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.” (1 Corinthians 15:33-34)*** Friends who does not follow God are dangerous for you, avoid them and be away from them. Put God first and be more with God’s people and with those who follow God and walk in His ways. Put God first and be more involved with the Church of God and involve more with the work of God. And if suppose you have problem, you need then to take advice from the

pastor and the leaders of the church who is responsible on you. By this way as you are putting God first then you will be safe and protected from wrong advice and wrong decisions. By the way, you need to be reminded that TV to watch programs and news, that will have bad effects on you, because that will be the same as you fellowship with non believers. Avoid TV at all to avoid such bad atmosphere that will give you bad advices and wrong decision. This how you put God first, and then be more with the Lord, be more with His word and be more among the people who knows God and knows His ways and be blessed.

B- Does not stand in the way of sinners: The stand of the man who stands with and agrees with what the word of God says He will be blessed. The stand of sinners contradicts the word of God. What the bible and the Word of God say that what we stand for. For the sinners everything is allowed and you can do but they will not be receiving any blessing from the Lord, but only God's wrath. If you want to receive God's blessing then stand and agree with what the word of God says.

C- Does not sit in the seat of mockers: With whom you are spending your time that is very important. Are you busy with parties and unnecessary worldly celebration? Do you spend more times in café shops and sit more with people and gossips? If that is your life style then you are not putting God first and His blessings far from you.

To put God first you need to observe the following:-

1- Your relationships with your friends needs to be reviewed: The bible tells the following about friends and friendship, ***"A righteous man is cautious in friendship."*** (Proverbs 12:26 a) You have to be aware and discerning about the type of friends you have and the extent of the relationship that you have with them. Some friends are dangerous; they might teach you wrong things or they might put you in some troubles and embarrassing situations. ***"A man of many companions may come to ruin."*** (Proverbs 18:24a) Many friends of different intention and different interests and motives can bring various inputs and hazards in your life. Be very careful about this point. Don't think the many friends that you have will help you and support you in times of need. The way you think is wrong, those very people who will put you down and add to

your misery. Be wise and listen to instruction. Cut all these friendships and fellowships with non-believers and free yourself and your mind from unnecessary burden. ***"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."*** (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

2- Change the atmosphere: Replace the bad habits that you had with a good one. Get more in reading your bible and meditate on the word of God. Be more with the family of God the church and get involve more in God's service. Instead of watching news and worldly TV and listening to worldly song you can enjoy listening to the Christian music and songs and Bible based Christian programs

My Dear and Beloved: ***"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm."*** (Proverbs 13:20) If you want to be blessed and receive all God's blessings in your life then accept and comply with the message. After the above description then you are accountable before God to put Him first and to obey Him and walk in His way as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that teaches me clearly your ways. Lord I commit myself to come out from all the worldly friendships and to break my yoke with all the non-believers, committing myself to follow you, reading your word and to be in fellowship with your people, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*