$SEEK \longrightarrow first$

³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

MATTHEW 6:33 NIV

THE POWER OF **priority**

Seeking God first means we are <u>aligning</u> our lives so God gets the <u>best</u> of our attention, affection, effort and energy.



The word "seek" in Matthew 6:33 means to be <u>continually</u> absorbed in the <u>search</u> for something.

⁴⁵"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. ⁴⁶When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!"

MATTHEW 13:45-46 NLT



Seeking God first will bring everything into proper perspective

WHAT DOES <u>prioritizing</u> THESE 21 DAYS TO SEEK GOD FIRST <u>do</u>?

→ It sets the <u>course</u>.

→ It sets the course.

The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

PSALM 37:23 NLT

→ It opens the windows.

WHAT DOES prioritizing These 21 days to seek god first do?

→ It opens the windows.

¹⁷But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. ¹⁸Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

MATTHEW **6:17–18** NLT

WHAT DOES prioritizing These 21 days to seek god first do?

→ It <u>rehydrates</u> you.

WHAT DOES prioritizing These 21 days to seek god first do?

→ It <u>rehydrates</u> you.

You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.

PSALM 63:1 NIV

→ It alters your appetites.

→ It alters your appetites. ¹⁶So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

GALATIANS 5:16-17 NLT

PRACTICAL HANDLES YOU CAN GET A HOLD OF DURING THIS 21 DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

PRACTICAL HANDLES YOU CAN GET A HOLD OF DURING THIS 21 DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

→ Write it down.

PRACTICAL HANDLES YOU CAN GET A HOLD OF DURING THIS 21 DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

Specifically write down what you are fasting and praying <u>for</u> and what you are fasting <u>from</u>.

→ Write it down.

PRACTICAL HANDLES YOU CAN GET A HOLD OF DURING THIS 21 DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

→ Establish a <u>plan</u>.

PRACTICAL HANDLES YOU CAN GET A HOLD OF DURING THIS 21 DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

JANUARY

8th 15th 22ND WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

7:00pm

→ Gather for prayer and worship with <u>us</u>.

WHAT CAN YOU *expect* FROM THESE 21 DAYS OF SEEKING FIRST?

¹²In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

JEREMIAH 29:13 NLT

¹⁴If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 NIV

If we will humble ourselves (fasting) <u>pray</u>, and repent (turn from our wicked ways) God <u>promises</u> to hear, forgive and <u>heal</u>.

