

SPIRITUAL RESET:**#1 PRIORITIES**MATTHEW ~~16:13-19~~ 6:25-34**I. Priority Conflict and Confusion**

- **Priority conflict** _____ – For most Christians, there is conflict and confusion about personal priorities. This causes stress and worry without a single spiritual direction in life. What does Jesus want us to do?
- **Wrong priority: following the** _____ (Matthew 6:25-27)

Worry – Excess anxiety that derives from seeing the world through earthly eyes and dealing with problems and needs in your own power, rather than God's. Worry is never productive, only destructive.

Self Life (The Flesh) (Galatians 5:16-17) – The flesh is your human nature alienated from God and devoted to sensual self – gratification and pursuit of worldly pleasures and possessions. Everyone struggles with the “flesh” in our nature that has not been spiritually transformed by the Spirit of God. When we are in the flesh, our priorities are wrong causing dissatisfaction, stress, internal confusion, God's judgment, and lack of God's blessing. Personal agendas we inflict on ourselves and others that are not biblical are the result of the “flesh.”

- **The Result: Priority confusion that is** _____ – Does not satisfy and ultimately causing failure, not success in life in what really matters. Also, it offends God that we don't depend on Him and His plan for our lives.

II. Seek First God's Kingdom (Matthew 6:33)

- **Priority 1 – Seek God's** _____ – God's kingdom (a.k.a. kingdom of God) is God's rule and reign through His people who are obedient to His will. This is in contrast to the kingdoms of the world, who are worldly and disobedient. The kingdoms of this world are geographical. God's kingdom is spiritual. Ideally this includes God's Church, but not always, if the church is not obeying.



Is there a difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven? No, they are synonymous for the same kingdom. Only Matthew uses “kingdom of heaven” so he wouldn't insult the Jewish readers who believed the Jewish name for God was so sacred that it shouldn't be written or spoken. The other gospel writers (Mark, Luke and John) **always** used the kingdom of God exclusively, even when writing about the same events in which Jesus spoke. We see the terms used interchangeably when Jesus taught in Mat. 19:23-24. The idea that the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven were two separate kingdoms originated from dispensational theology (rejected by all Baptist Bible experts), developed by J.N. Darby (a non-Baptist) in the 1800's and popularized by the Scholfield Bible and Dallas Theological Seminary (a non-Southern Baptist seminary). Southern Baptists and most evangelical Christians have rejected that there is a difference between the two terms. Famous Baptists Billy Graham and Charles Stanley have rejected any difference between the two.

- **We are to “_____”** – The Greek is in the imperative – which is a command and urgent; and means to focus on and with all our efforts strive to search for God’s kingdom. We are to, with single-minded dedication, seek, find, and obey God’s rule and reign in this world and our lives.
- **Seek God’s _____** – To strive to become Christlike in our thoughts and actions as we continue to seek, others will see Jesus in us more and more as our life continues. The Holy Spirit within us transforms us as we seek. The life and teachings of Christ and other Bible teaching shows us what God’s righteousness looks like.
- **The Big _____** – The world, Satan, and our flesh should not determine our priorities, but God – His kingdom and righteousness.
- **The _____ way to seek the God’s kingdom and righteousness** – Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-39)

III. The Result of Right Priorities – God Will Take Care of You

- **God promises to take care of our _____** – When we are seeking God’s kingdom and righteousness, God will provide for our needs. He blesses us! God will provide for our true needs (not necessarily our wants and wishes); and He will do it His way and in His time. Often this is done through our own efforts (as in a job; II Thessalonians 3:10) and through wisdom for living given by God through His written word and through the Spirit (James 1:5-8). We are not to sit back and wait for God to drop His provision for our needs out of the sky!
- **Not a priority: Worrying about _____** – Though we should prudently plan for tomorrow, we should not focus on it or worry about it. We are to live to achieve God’s priorities today. We will still have problems in the future that are unforeseen, but God will guide and provide when the time comes. Focus on seeking God’s kingdom and righteousness today! That is our spiritual reset on priorities.

Are you experiencing priority conflict and confusion?

Are your priorities worldly or spiritual?

Are you seeking God’s kingdom and righteousness or worrying about today?

Are you ready to spiritually reset your priorities God’s way?

Answers: I. Confusion; flesh; counter-productive. II. Kingdom, seek; righteousness; idea; Jesus
III. Needs; tomorrow.