

## ***Fasting - First Things First***

I'm going to be speaking this morning on **FIRST THINGS...**

I found in God's word where God said, "**Do This First.**"

- And it will align you for blessings...
- Seven times – do this first – do this first!!!!
- If you **put my WORD first** my blessings will overtake you – in this new year!!

***The beginning of the year is a good time to get things straight!***

When I think about alignment, I can't help but think about my car. You could be traveling the smoothest road in the world, heading into the sunset.

***\*\*\*Story – knocking your car out of alignment...***

- ***Hit the curb or pot hole***
- ***Get up to 60 miles per hour – wable***
- ***It hinders your journey – why???***
- ***Because things are out of alignment....***

But **if your car is out of alignment**, it feels like you're navigating a winding, gravel road in the dark!

**When your vehicle is out of alignment, *your direction, your safety and your longevity are all at risk.***

***\*\*\*Story- Chiropractor – get things in line***

- My knee was injured and my whole body was out of alignment...
- I had aches and pains everywhere...
- There was something about getting that alignment right!!!
- ***It makes the journey easier...***

***We need to take inventory, tune-up, tune in and make sure we're heading in the right direction.***

**It's time to get aligned!!!!!!!!!!**

*There are two distinctively different definitions for alignment—both have significant spiritual implications.*

- **First of all**, alignment refers to arrangement in a straight line, or in ***correct position***.
- **Secondly**, alignment refers to ***a position of agreement*** or alliance.

If you want to be in the **correct position** to receive favor and blessing from the Lord, ***you have to align your priorities with God's word!***

**#1 - Get priorities straight: Matthew 6:33 NKJV –**

***“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”.***

***FIRST THINGS – ALIGNMENT OF PRIORITIES –***

***\*\*\*In other word's you must dethrone what stands between you and Jesus...***

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 – NKJV**

<sup>23</sup> 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 – **Spirit** – **Soul** – and **Body!!!!**
- So often our order is the **FLESH = body**
- Then our **Soul** = ***our attitudes our happiness ect..***      ***Then our spirit...***

***But, notice God's priority! SPIRIT FIRST!!!!!!!***

- ***Seek First the Kingdom and I will preserve you Spirit, soul and body...***
- ***Spirit first and everything else will be blessed...Spiritual alignment must be first!!!!***

**The Christian life is NOT me first – It IS the Kingdom first!!! HEAR ME – IF you will say the kingdom 1 st – That is the alignment of God's blessing – he will bless you!**

## **#2 - Mend relationships: Matthew 7:5 - NKJV**

<sup>5</sup> Hypocrite! **First** remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

### **THIS is the alignment of RELATIONSHIPS**

- You need to worry 1<sup>st</sup> **about yourself**
- You are talking about people and their issues -
- You are worrying about their toothpick and **not your plank...**
- This **DOES NOT make sense...**

### **How many of you have met that Christian??????**

- It's so easy to see what **they need to do...**
- What they need to do... **With their children...**
- But, your children **don't even like to be around you!!!!**
- You can see – It is so clear to you – **BUT you don't see the Plank!!!!**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Yank the Plank from your own eye!!!**

### **I'M TELLING YOU HOW TO GET IN ALIGNMENT FOR THE BLESSING OF GOD!**

- God does not bless people **who go around criticizing others.**
- As though they have no issues **themselves...**
- Deal with you 1<sup>st</sup>

### ***Take authority: Align relationships –***

**Matthew 5:23-24** – NKJV - <sup>23</sup> Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

<sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. **First be reconciled to your brother**, and then come and offer your gift.

**If you are in a position of – Un-forgiveness, bitterness, strife and your offended**

- It does you **NO good** **to give an offering!**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Bring it – leave it - lay away – ***go and invest*** – it is on the altar.

**We need somebody to fix the relationships that we are in!!!**

- If you want the blessings of God this year – ***Get in Alignment!!!***
- Be ***reconciled*** – and ***if they don't want this*** –
- You have ***done your part...***
- God can then ***bless your life!!!!***

**#3 Authority of Alignment: Matthew 12:29 – NKJV –**

<sup>29</sup> Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he ***first binds the strong man***? And then he will plunder his house.

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

- ***Stolen relationships*** - Money - Health - ***He's stolen things***
- You can ***no longer*** be passive...

**Scripture:** the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force.

He wants us ***in alignment with authority***

- Take authority **over the strongman...**
- ***Satan has your stuff in a storage unit!!!***    ***He has stolen from us...***
- ***And says we will never get it back...***

**But the bible says if you want your stuff back –**

**FIRST take authority and bind the strong man**

- **DON'T** accept that it is gone forever
- You lose your keys – you look until you find them
- You lose your wallet – you look for it until you find it

The devil wants you to say – ***I've lost it so long I'll never get it back.***

- But, the bible says that **when the enemy comes against you –**
- you are to **bind** the strong man!!!
- ***I think today your going to get back your JOY, Your Dream, your marriage, your finances, your going to get your purpose BACK!!!!***

**We have the Authority of Alignment operating – we are NOT defeated...**

- ***We have authority over demons, over devils, over the spirit of lack, the spirit of fear, the spirit of depression, the spirit of suicide, the spirit of discouragement***
- ***GOD is saying BIND those strong men!!!!***
- ***I will restore to you the JOY of your salvation...***

#### **#4 Give your whole heart: Matthew 22:36-39 – KJV**

<sup>36</sup> Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

<sup>37</sup> **Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

<sup>38</sup> This is the **first** and great commandment.

<sup>39</sup> And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt **love thy neighbor** as thyself.

#### **THIS IS THE ALIGNMENT OF YOUR HEART**

- ***God wants to bless you in this new year...***
- I want to open the windows of heaven and ***pour out on you a blessing*** that you cannot contain...
- Enough blessing that you will not have room enough to receive...

Here is the first thing you have to do – **Get the alignment of heart...**

- Thou shalt Love the Lord your God –
- This is the **first** and great commandment –
- With all thy heart!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

You see what you get excited about is what you activate.

- What you get passionate about is what you activate.
- He says I WANT YOUR HEART –
- I want you to this year – ***GIVE me your heart!***

*It is the first commandment and He said:*

- Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, and mind.
- Love your neighbor –
- And love yourself...

*We like all that, but we forget the part – love yourself, as your neighbor!*

- He says I LOVE YOU...
- Don't listen to the voice of the enemy.
- It tells you to hate yourself, your ugly, your inferior, your stupid.

The voices on the inside will tell you –

- you can't do anything right
- Your good for nothing
- That is NOT in alignment with what the King has to say about you!
- That is not his voice...

It is never the giants that keep us out of the promised land.

- It was the 10 spies on the inside...
- It was those 10 that kept them from victory.
- It WAS NOT the giants on the outside.

The thing that will stop you from your dream and your promised land...

- It will NOT be the giants as they are not authorized to stop you!!!
- It will always be the voices on the inside...
- The 10 voices said we are not able...

- But, two said we are able
- 10 said we can't do it- were not good, big or strong enough...
- **We Can't do it – BEWARE of the voices on the inside.....**

GOD said – I want you to LOVE YOURSELF on the inside

**GET IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE LORD!!!!**

### **#5 Seek inner purity: Matthew 23:25-26 - NKJV**

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

**He was talking to a bunch of self-righteous Pharisees** – who wore white clothing and walked around letting everybody know how Holy they were.

Jesus said – Cleanse FIRST that which is inside the cup.

### **THAT IS THE ALIGNMENT OF YOUR INNER WORLD**

You **can't** take the man out of the Slum – You got to **get the slum out** of the man.

- ***That alignment in your inner world is your Purity, your thought life...***
- They were so worried about looking the part on the outside
- But, on the inside they were full of dead men's bones.

The world feeds on what you are on the outside

***But, God feeds on what you are on the inside...***

***That is why Jesus stood at the door behold I'm on the outside and I knock***

- I want to come in and Sup with you
- ***You need to clean*** the cup's on the inside.

***Some people always only worry about the outside and what people may think.***

- But we need to worry about *the inside*
- **Be clean in** your purity, thought life, attitude, in your spirit.

***If you want to be in THE ALIGNMENT OF MY BLESSING –***

- ***DON'T GO AROUND THINKING YOUR HOLLINESS IS IN YOUR OUTSIDE***
- ***BECAUSE YOU GOTTA GET IT ON THE INSIDE –***
- ***THEN IT WILL CHANGE THINGS ON THE OUTSIDE!!!!***
- ***HE WILL DO IT – IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING CLEAN ON THE INSIDE....***
- ***FIRST.....***

**#6 GET IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST - John 20:19 – NKJV –**

***Jesus Appears to His Disciples -***

<sup>19</sup> Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace *be* with you.”

**GET IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST on the first day of the week...**

- You **Don't** just come to church hit, skip or miss...
- But, you **get in alignment with the body of Christ** the first day of the week.
- **The Sabbath!**
- **Make your priority** God's house this year.
- And **watch the blessings** find you!

**Jacob said: I will call this place Bethel**

He saw a vision of angels going up and down to heaven = He said I found the gate of heaven and I'm going to call this place Bethel. **Which means house of God!**

- There is things that God will do for you in church that **he will not do for you by yourself.**
- **Nothing can take the place of the alignment with the body of Christ.**



- Which says one can put a thousand , but here together two can put ten thousands to flight.
- **Look at someone** next to you and say **I'm Seven times stronger** because I'm sitting by you.
- **My prayers, praise, and faith** are seven times stronger right now...
- You are in the right place **for miracle today!!!!**

***This is the house of God, this is the gate of Heaven, and Angels are here.***

- **In Alignment with the Body of Christ!!!!**
- ***How you treat God's house is how God will treat your house!***
- **You will see direct blessings in alignment with how your aligned with the body of Christ.**
- **Make a commitment to the house of God this year!!!!**

### **#7 Give God what's His: Deuteronomy 26:2 - NIV**

<sup>2</sup> take some of the **firstfruits** of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name

***He said you shall take the First fruits:***

**THAT IS THE ALIGNMENT OF YOUR MONEY**

### **Proverbs 3:9-10 - NKJV**

<sup>9</sup> Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the **firstfruits** of all your increase; <sup>10</sup> So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

**The tithe is the first – It is not the cost of admission to a gospel show!!!**

We're to bring the tithe to the storehouse – **where you are spiritually fed.**

**Connection Point:**

**Malachi 3:10 NIV** - "Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and ***pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it***".

**Close:** I hear the overarching message, the age-old antic, ***"It's what's on the inside that counts!" And it is true.***)

**Our Father is the creator of life, the giver of dreams.**  
**Our hope and our future are His.**

When we put Him first and align our lives with His word, we have nothing to lose and **everything to gain!**

If you want to be ***in the correct position*** to receive favor and blessing from the Lord, you have to **align your priorities** with **God's word!**

**Keeping your car aligned makes life easier -**

**Keeping your spirit aligned makes life meaningful!!!!**

- **How about you?**
- Are there some areas you need to **reprioritize?**
- Maybe a spiritual alignment is what you need.
- **It is not** about being perfect and following a set of rules, ***it's about changing from the inside out!***
- It's about **seeing Him open** the windows of heaven and pouring out so much blessing that ***there will not be room enough*** to store it!