

# “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

By Bob Heirtzler

Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Good morning, everybody! Welcome to Christian Fellowship Church of Great Lakes. Brother Parrish asked me to deliver the message today. The topic of this month is Sound Doctrine. The theme of this month is:

**Titus 2:1** *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:*

That’s the verse of the month. Parrish Lee started us off with prayer—effectual fervent prayer. He made four points: Point number one was “Prayer is an attitude.” You have to have an attitude when you’re praying to God that God’s going to come through. Number two, he said, “Teach us to Pray.” I’m going to touch on that a little later. Number three, “God wants to bless our prayers.” I was thinking this morning as I woke up before the sun came up, “It’s so amazing when we pray for God to bless people, it not only blesses them, but it blesses the people that pray.” It encourages them to know that God hears our prayers. It’s amazing how, sometimes, names will pop into your head, and you pray for them, and later on, you find out that they were dealing with some things. I know Jojo’s not in the room, but he was heavy on my heart, because he lost a classmate. When Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, back in 1968, there were a lot of fires in that town, where a riot broke out. One building after another was caught on fire. When we went to school the next day, there were two empty chairs in the classroom. Two of our classmates were trapped in one of those fires. It just devastated us, the teachers—Brother Malcolm, I just know what he’s going through. It’s just, they’re there, and they’re not there. I’m just keeping him in prayer; I’ve been keeping him in prayer. Part four was, “Effectual Fervent Prayer Availeth Much.” Brother Parrish made a statement, and I’m going to make a direct quote of what he said about our General Pastor, he said, “You know, we need more sound doctrine in our ministry. We never want to forget the principles that we learned, and that keep us strong, and that keep us consistent, because, you know, that part of the Word never passes away.” The scripture that I want to say to that is:

**1 Corinthians 1:10** *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

We’ve got to stick to sound doctrine, so that we can make it to Heaven at the end. Today, I’m talking about the part of sound doctrine that says, “...Seek ye first the kingdom of God...” I would like everyone to bow their heads; Brother Malcolm, could you open us in prayer, please.

MALCOLM: God, we come to You with humble hearts, Father God, and a mind that is ready to worship You, that You have put in place so that we could pray to You and know what name salvation rests in. For there is no other name given under Heaven among men whereby we must be saved, and that name, Jesus, as a wise man said, puts us all together. We thank You that we know Your name; that You have a name, and we can pray *in* Your name, and You will answer. We don’t have to wonder about it; we don’t have to ask somebody else—we can ask You; we can go directly to the source. The veil of the Temple has been rent; we have free access to You Spirit. We don’t need a priest; we don’t need to go to this person or that person; we can go straight to You. This goes for English, Spanish, or any other language on this Earth, God, You will hear it. So, we thank You. We thank You for Your Word; we thank

You for Your doctrine, and Your structure, because we all need structure in our lives, so we can learn and grow and be who You called us to be. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Amen. So this Scripture thought for today is:

**Matthew 6:33** *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

We had a Bible study at It's All Good, this past Wednesday; there were about twenty-five of us there. I asked the question, "When you read this scripture what comes to your mind?" Nancy quickly raised her hand:

NANCY: Seek God first in all things that you do!!!

OMAR: Seek God to improve things in your life and to be wiser with people

PEARL: God comes first in all things in your life..... Every area of your life!!

JEFF: Seeking God Will – Doing what He says!!

MATTHEW: when you are seeking Heaven – all other needs will fall into place!!

CINDY: Seeking God when you are up and down in life – God will direct you!!

MIKE: Seek righteousness to be established – God to remove all short comings so you can flourish!!

CHRIS (RED): Remove the worry and panic, gives you calmness, to be thankful, have a stable mind

NANCY: (Again) – 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

ED: Having your mind on God, Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

BILL: Relax, there is a plan, and stay in the plan

BRENT: Ask God's will above your agenda and feelings

NANCY: (Again and Again) – instead of What I am going to do – ask God what to do!

LUCY: Not to be distracted from God's path but to focus on what is going on in the light of God.

JEFF (again): Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

It's amazing how they actually said Matthew Chapter 6 in that. We're going to turn to Matthew chapter 6, and I encourage you to read the whole thing, but I'm not going to read the whole thing today. I want to start out where Parrish stated, last week, "Teach Us to Pray!!"

**Matthew 6:9-13** *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily*

*bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

It's amazing that the next two verses talk about if you want forgiveness, you have to forgive others. If you want God to forgive you, you have to forgive others. It's amazing how that it rolls down to verse thirty-three. We're not there yet, but at verse twenty-five,

**Mathew 6:25-26** *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*

Skip down to Verse 30...

**Matthew 6:30** *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

Then again, He says,

**Matthew 6:31** *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*

It tells us that God will take care of all of our needs; not to worry about tomorrow, but to focus on what's going on today. Tomorrow will get here if it gets here. Today could be the last day; the trumpet sounds, and the songs that we've been singing, we will be all changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we'll be out of here. No more Monday morning going to work; that would be great, amen?

**Matthew 6:33** *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

I will ask the special guests coming in—I got the youth department to help me out with a few things... The part I want to talk about, "...take therefore no thought for tomorrow..." I want to talk about three people in the Old Testament that didn't know if tomorrow was even going to come; they had to focus on what was going on right now. They didn't care about tomorrow, because they took a strong stand with God, and they had to focus. The Children's Church Department has always been dear to me, because I was part of it, and I'm still part of it, for almost thirty years now. It's just something that God gave me, a calling on my life to work with youth. I see people, I hear people sing, I remember Parrish teaching a Bible study, and the kids were answering your questions, Parrish. That's just awesome; that just blows me away.

I'm looking for David; where's David? Is David here yet? Remember the first story of David and Goliath in First Samuel chapter seventeen? King David—David, at the time—Jesse sent him with some food, to take to his three older brothers that were in the battle. He went to the battle, with his little basket of food, to give to his three brothers, but, when he got there, he heard this Philistine, bad-mouthing, trash-mouthing his God. He got upset. He was like, "What are we going to do about this?" Everybody was afraid of this nine-foot, little wrench guy, named Goliath. He was a big guy. David was just the youngest of eight brothers, and he's down there with a basket of food. His brothers said, "Why

are you here? Are you just trying to find out what we're doing?" Anybody have siblings younger than you that always hung around with you, wanted to stay with you, and you said, "Hey, stay away from me, stay away, stay away..."? that's what they thought he was doing, and David said, "What are we going to do about this problem?" he was like, "Let me take care of it." Saul said, "Okay." So Saul started putting all his armor onto David. His armor was heavy. David, said, "No, I'm not worthy of this armor. I'm going to bring what I have. My résumé is, I killed a bear; I killed a lion; this Philistine is no match for God." So, David picked up five smooth stones and ran to the battle. When he got there, he swung it, and hit the giant right dead center between the eyes. Just imagine that hit him right dead center between the eyes. Such force did God give this young man, that the stone was embedded in right into his head. I have been hit by BB's, and pellets, and paintballs, and nothing ever hit me that hard that it left a dent in me. What a force! (1 Samuel 17:38-40, 46-48)

Now, what's that talking about? What giants do we face today? Anybody want to shout them out? What giants do we face today? Finances, sickness, stress, divisions, temptations, doubts... The giants that we face today, God gave us in His Word, in:

**Ephesians 6:10-11** *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God...*

You notice David didn't put on Saul's armor; he had the armor of God on. That's how he took out the giant. It's encouraging us to put on the armor of God. what happens when we put on the armor of God/ Well, let's read:

**Ephesians 6:11-13** *...that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

We put on the whole armor of God. David didn't know if he was going to be around the next day. Goliath was ready to feed him to the birds, but God came through. So, when we have prayers, and seek God first, he delivers.

The next story is about three Hebrew Children: Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego, and King Nebuchadnezzar. When they heard the music—Bill (Bill plays "The Bunny Song" from Veggie Tales' "Rack, Shack, and Benny.") Thank you—they were supposed to bow down to the image that this king built, but they didn't. these two people told him, "Hey, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego, they didn't bow down to your music when it played." So, King Nebuchadnezzar wants to give them another chance. I'd like to read this word-for-word:

**Daniel 3:16-17** *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.*

This king got hot. He got mad. He cranked up the heat on that oven, and he had a group of soldiers that threw them into the fiery furnace. It was so hot, the soldiers died, during the process. Now the three people are in there walking around, and King Nebuchadnezzar says, "Hey, I thought there was three. Why do I see four?" And the fourth one was like unto the son of God. When they came out of the fiery furnace, the stench of smoke was not on them, their hair wasn't burned—you ever go to a

bonfire, and you go home that night, and you walk in, and you smell like the bonfire? You know what I'm saying? These guys did not smell like the bonfire. God protected them inside the furnace. So, how does that relate to today? You ever think about, "I'm a Christian, why am I going through all these battles?" As human beings, we think, "Why am I going through this? I thought it was going to be roses and ice cream every day!"

**1 Peter 4:12-14** *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you...*

This is how you know that the Spirit of God resteth upon you, because you're going through battles. If you're not going through battles, you should check yourself, you know? If you're not going through anything at all, check your prayer life. If you are, that means His Spirit resteth upon you, but if you're not, that means... what? You're missing something. Right.

**1 Peter 4:16** *Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

Parrish talked about this Scripture.—Nope, that's another Scripture he talked about.

**1 Peter 1:6-7** *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

When you heat up gold to a liquid state, all the garbage floats to the top. What they do is, they skim it off to purify the gold. So, when we go through trials and tests, like fire, it causes us to pray and to seek like crazy, and God's able to remove something that might be hindering us, and give us something else to purify us better, so that you're ready for the next battle. Did you ever notice that when you get through this battle, there's a next battle? Because you went through this battle, it helps with that battle, and when you get to the next battles, then you realize that those battles helped you get to this point, so you're getting purified all the time. Does that make sense? I mean, battles, to your flesh, is like, "Augh! Again?" but it helps us, right?

The next story is Daniel and the Lions Den. Daniel was a praying man. There was a whole bunch of people that got together and got the king to sign something about no one could petition the Lord or anybody for thirty days. Daniel was aware of that. So what did David do? He just went to work? Nope. He went fishing? nope. He prayed anyway. Church, let me share something with you: Don't let anybody tell you—in Hell or out of Hell—that you cannot pray to God. You can pray to God at all times. He's there, He's just a breath away. "Well, the rule says we can't pray in school." You can still pray. "Well, the rule says we can't pray at work." You can still pray. God has called us to pray and to seek His face. If we stand, strong, against that—we have testimonies after testimonies of people that stood the test. You'll be able to talk about Daniel, talk about David, talk about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, talk about Ruth and Esther and all those other people in the Bible. If they didn't make it, their story wouldn't be in there would it? I don't know, I'm just thinking out loud. Don't anybody tell you that we can't pray. So the king found out, through his group of people, that Daniel prayed anyway, and, because he signed the decree, he had to throw Daniel in the lion's den. Now he's in the lion's den—you ever

have a cat bump against you? Any of you that are cat lovers? I imagine those lions were bumping into Daniel that night; I can imagine him petting them, and they're just purring, you know? I imagine they were taking catnaps, while he was praying. To the point, the king fasted all night, because he didn't like what he just did. He called Daniel the next morning, and Daniel answered and said, "I'm here." The people that accused Daniel, he (the king) threw them in, with their wives and kids. Anyone that thinks that the lions were not hungry, they wiped that whole clan out quickly—you could hear crunching of bones the Bible says (Daniel 6). They were hungry. So, what are the lions that we have today? I like what you said, Parrish, how that God would deliver us out of every evil work.

**2 Timothy 4:17-18** *Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall...*

I like the word, 'shall.' That means it's going to happen. It doesn't say should, it could, maybe; it says shall.

**2 Timothy 4:18** *...shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Satan walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). As soon as you came out of that tank of water, you were an avowed enemy. You got baptized and called on His name; now you're an enemy of Satan, which is a good thing. Right? Satan is going to throw everything at you to try to get you to stop doing what you're doing. The first thing he threw at me was my past. God forgave me of my past, but sometimes he (the devil) likes to bring up my past to try to stop me from doing what I need to do. I have to remind Satan that I was forgiven of that. Other thing is, sometimes ailments of your body will stop you from doing things. I have seen testimony after testimony here, where you have not let the ailments of your body stop you from worshipping God. That ain't going to work, so now he's going to find some other way to attack the flesh. Road rage, maybe. Whatever your weak point is, Satan knows it and pings on it. He'll ping on it and ping on it until your weak point becomes strong, then he'll find some other weak point to ping on. He might find somebody to accuse you of something you're not doing, try to set you up. We've had that happen to us, right? Satan doesn't play by any rules but his own. Does that make sense?

So, I mentioned about Daniel, David, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego; they weren't promised tomorrow. They had to focus on what was going on now. They were seeking first the Kingdom of God. They weren't worried about tomorrow, or, if they were sitting inside the fire, trying to take a picture so that they could post it on Facebook, "Look where I was at today!" They had to focus on what was going on today.

We're going into the third part, seek ye first the Kingdom of God, dealing with the leadership of the ministry.

We all understand, those that work, we have a boss, or a manager, or a supervisor, or a foreman... They all have different titles, but we answer to them. If we want that paycheck on Friday, or every other Friday, or whatever dates you have arranged to get your paycheck. Right? We got hired there, and they taught us. The supervisor probably came alongside us and taught us the functions that we needed to do, or he had somebody do it for him. Also, the supervisor wants us to communicate with them when we want a day off or a vacation, or personal time. He also, when we call in sick, he wants a telephone call by a certain time. Or, if you running late, he wants a telephone call by a certain time. You understand the picture I'm drawing here? We have to work with our manager, our supervisor, our

boss if we still want that paycheck. You might not like where you're at, but at least it's a stepping stone to where you're going. If you're thankful for where you're at, then God will give you a better job. We have testimonies of that in this room, too. So, we understand that concept, then we should understand the concept of God and His leadership. God has set things up for us to do our job, and to make sure that we are doing what we are called to do. According to two Scriptures that came to my mind out of Wednesday night's Bible study:

**1 Corinthians 14:33** *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

He doesn't want confusion; He wants consistency in the ministry. And, just a few verses down:

**1 Corinthians 14:40** *Let all things be done decently and in order.*

He wants order, and he needs a structure. Does that make sense? Okay. When I was baptized, God taught me that there was a structure to follow. When I got baptized, I came out of the water, and I didn't know anything except, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16). That's all I knew. That's the only scripture I knew. I had to be taught, and un-taught the way I was raised to be taught the way God wants. So, there was a structure. I learned that God gave us pastors after His own heart to help us. It says:

**Jeremiah 3:15** *And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.*

The word 'shall' feed you with knowledge and understanding.

**Hebrews 13:16** *But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

If we communicate with our supervisors and our managers that we're running late, or we're calling in sick, shouldn't we do that with the leadership of the ministry? Let them know? "Hey, Brother Parrish, I can't make it in today, I'm sick." He'll keep you in prayer. Me knowing Parrish, I'm going to get a call at the end of the end of the night, asking how I'm doing. Or from Brother Andy. You're communicating. If I don't show up for three weeks without calling, what message am I leaving to the congregation and the leadership here? I died; this is not important to me; maybe I got discouraged; maybe something that I went through that I can't explain; maybe I'm crying out for help and I just don't want to reach out and talk to anybody about it. That's why communication is important. You know, I've never been judged by anybody in this ministry in the thirty-five years that I've been here. God's always judged me. Every time I've had a need for prayer—it says to confess our faults, not our sins, to each other (James 5:16). Yeah, I get mad sometimes. I caught every red light on the way here. Every red light; do you know how many red lights there are between here and Lake Villa? I said, "Again? Again? I got to get there." You know? We all have faults. I've never had to share my sins with anybody, and they stop me right in my tracks when I do. "I don't need to know; just get it right." Brother Andy talked about that earlier, too. If you know you've done something wrong, get here early, and get on your knees and pray. Right? Another person borrowed my message; that's okay.

**Hebrews 13:17** *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

Obey them that have the rule over you... My boss's name is Leslie Ramsey. She's my supervisor. Sometimes I have to get pulled into the office for a mistake that I did. I got written up a couple of years ago. I didn't even know that I did what I did, but I got written up for it. Sometimes the supervisor has to correct us. If you're late a certain number of times, you get a verbal. Then you get it in writing, and then you get three days off without pay, and then you're gone. There are some things people have done that they skipped all three and just got fired right on the spot. See, we understand that, but sometimes the leadership has to talk to us, "Hey, brother..." "Hey, sister, I'm not understanding what's going on here; make me to understand. What are you going through? Why did you say what you said? Let's get this right." You know? If I have a problem with Abby, I'm not going to tell Sonia about it; I'm going to go to Abby. If I have a problem with Parrish, I'm not going to talk to Andy about it, I'm going to go to Parrish. We need to stop talking to everybody else except for the person that we need to talk to, right? Maybe we don't want to communicate with the leadership because we're afraid that we're not doing what are we supposed to be doing. "I'm not going to call Parrish, because I'm not really sick, I just don't feel like going. Okay, I just made a mistake." This guy's got the gift of discernment; he knows. He knows, because God tells him. You know what I'm saying. Maybe we don't want to share something, because, well... Does that make sense? I thought you had to seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness every day... Make sense? What are we supposed to be doing? What are we supposed to be doing with the leadership?

**Ephesians 4:1** *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,*

See, he's telling the congregation to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. Bill Adams said, "Are we all ushers? Are we all singers? Are we all preachers? We all have a calling on our lives." Make sense? Then he's telling us to walk worthy of it. Whatever that calling is. With what?

**Ephesians 4:** *With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Bill Adams mentioned about one.

**Ephesians 4:4-5** *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

Ever since I've been saved, I've heard of so many different ways of being baptized outside of the Word of God. I've heard so many different ways to make it to Heaven. I mean, they compare, like, "Well, you know, Bob, there's a hundred different ways to Chicago's Sears Tower." That may be true, but there's only one way to get to Heaven, and that's by following His Word. Does that make sense?

**Ephesians 4:6-7** *One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

God put people in the ministry to be our leaders. In my family—the Heirtzler side of the family—whoever is oldest is in charge. That would be my Uncle Ed. He's 82 years old. Everybody—



that's the way my family is set up on that side—everybody goes to him for advice. When he asses on, it'll be the next person; that would be my dad. He'll be in charge of the family. But, in God's ministry, He doesn't go by age. He goes by the heart. King David was the youngest of eight, yet he was the king. According to tradition, the oldest should've been, right? But King David's heart was chosen. So, sometimes I have to forget that Parrish is younger than I am—now Andy is younger than I am—Right? Why do I have to listen to these young guys? How do they know? Right? We can't have that attitude; you know what I'm saying? God called them, and placed His Spirit upon the leadership of this ministry. I'm not lifting them up; I'm just using them as examples. We all answer to God, but, what these two guys do, they have to answer not only to God, but to Pastor Paine, of all the things that go on. You already know that those that are talking to us said, "Give Pastor Paine a call. That's not my area." Know what I'm saying? We have a structure here. Just because our pastor's one thousand and twelve miles away, doesn't mean that we can't call and talk to him. Don't even use that as an excuse. He's available. You can call at two in the morning, but make sure he's awake. But it better be important; there'd better be a reason. I told the youth here—me and Country made an oath, we made a promise to all the youth, all the teen-agers over the years, if you ever get yourself in a situation, call us, we'll come and get you, no questions asked. We'll come and get you, take you out of that environment, and take you home, no questions asked. But they have to deal with their parents about it. We've got to be there for each other. Does that make sense? We're a family.

So, what's the leadership to us, now? The Word says,

**Ephesians 4:11** *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

For what reason?

**Ephesians 4:12** *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

Until when?

**Ephesians 4:13-14** *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

I was raised differently, and I had to be re-taught again the Word of God. I was taught that there was three: There was a Father, there was a Son, and there was a Holy Ghost; there was three totally separate people. I used to talk to the Son, to talk to His Dad, to talk to my dad, not to give me a spanking. It never worked; I got the spanking anyway. The Holy Ghost, I didn't want to talk to any ghost—I stayed as far away from Him as possible. He did some things that I can't explain, and I just stayed far away from Him. I didn't know that Jesus and God was all one until I came here. I thought—I didn't know—standing in line for communion at church, I had wine on my forehead and said I was part of the Body of Christ. Wine sprinkled on my forehead—I thought I was in, but I still felt empty. "This can't be it." Right? I had to be re-taught again. That's why God set up pastors and teachers to teach us the Word of God. Amen?

**Ephesians 4:15-16** *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every*

*joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

The leadership's job is to edify the Body of Christ. Make sense? We all come from different backgrounds, but we serve the same God. We all come from different upbringings, but we serve the same God. We all have different types of foods that we like; some like Spanish, some like Italian, some like all kinds of food, but we still serve the same God. We all know God's not in our food, right?

In Closing—yeah, I'm closing now.

Jesus chose each and every one of us to this ministry. Jesus didn't sit with His back to us to wait to hit a button if He liked our voice, like the show, 'The Voice.' Jesus didn't sit on a panel to find out if we qualified, like 'America's Got Talent' or 'American Idol.' Jesus didn't do that; He says, "I want you." We don't have to go through that. He never sat with His back to us or sat on a panel to see if we're good enough to be saved or not. We are. We are good enough to be saved. Make sense? Then,

**John 15:16-17** *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.*

Go back to the first Scripture:

**Matthew 6:33** *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

If you want God to move in your life; if you want God to answer your prayers; if you want God to direct your path, You've got to seek Him first. Not just on Sundays and Wednesdays, but evvery day of our lives. Amen? Thank you.

