

LIVING A FIRST-THING-FIRST LIFESTYLE
PUTTING GOD FIRST
6 PRINCIPLES OF THE FIRST

PASTOR DENIS

The Journey So Far

Series: **Putting God First**

- Session 1 – **Growth & Alignment**
- Session 2 – Putting God First in Everything
- Session 3 – **Keeping God First When Life Competes**
- Session 4 – **Living a First-Things-First Faith Lifestyle (Today)**

Series Highlights

The Journey of First:
Principle → Practice → Permanence

Building a lifestyle of:
First Love • First Obedience • First Trust
First Fruits • First Faith Decisions

Key Decisions

- From moments of devotion to a lifestyle of devotion
- From intentional moments to first-priority living
- Keeping God first when life continues

Key Thoughts

- Not an event – a **rhythm**
- Not a feeling – a **framework**
- Not just intention – but **order**

**But seek first the kingdom of God and
his righteousness, and all these
things will be added to you.**

MATTHEW 6:33

Key Principle

What you consistently put first, eventually **governs your life.**

Jesus said to him, ““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is *the* first and great commandment.

MATTHEW 22: 37 - 38

Principle 1 – First is not About Time – It's about Order

- Order determines flow
- Priority determines peace

When God is First

- God first → Life aligns
- God second → Life strains
- God optional → Life fragments

Key Reflection

“If God is first in principle, but not **first in practice**, He is not first at all”.

Biblical Example

The Widow of Zarephath - 1st Kings 17: 7- 16

- First faith decision
- Provision followed obedience

God often tests our faith by asking for the first, not because He needs it, but because we need to learn to **trust Him.**

Principle 2 – First is Revealed By What You Do Without Being Reminded

From Principle to Practise

**“Whatever takes first place in your life is revealed
by what you do, without being reminded”.**

Priority Reality

- What you prioritise, you remember
- What you value, you protect
- What you honour, you plan for

First-Place Indicators

- **Prayer** without pressure
- **Word** without guilt
- **Worship** without prompting
- **Obedience** without negotiation

Principle 3 – First Love Produces First Obedience

John 14:15

If you love me keep my commandments

Love produces obedience

Love in motion, not legalism

Obedience is not...

- Fear-based obedience
- Performance obedience
- Image obedience

Obedience is...

- Love-driven obedience
- Flowing from devotion

Principle 4 – First Trust is Tested When Control Is Challenged

Proverbs 3:5–6

Trust in the Lord with all you heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him,
And he shall direct your paths.

- Trust begins where control ends
- God is first when control is surrendered

Principle 5 – First Fruits Prove First Place

God always asks for

- The first and not the leftovers
- The best and not the spare
- To be first place in our lives

Principle of First Applies to...

- Time
- Decisions
- Energy
- Relationships
- Finances

Principle 6 – First Faith Decisions Shape Future Outcomes

“Small first decisions, create spiritual momentum, and shape future outcomes”

Faith Decision Examples

- First response – not last resort
- First prayer – not damage control
- First obedience – not delayed surrender

Personal Question

Where has God moved from first place in your life?

Declaration

1. I will reorder my life
2. I will reinforce godly rhythms
3. I will recommit to first-priority faith

Declaration

God is first in my belief

- First in my *behaviour*
- First in my *trust*
- First in my *obedience*
- First in my *decisions*