

“Seek God 1st!”

Text: Matthew 6:25-33

1. WHAT is God’s purpose for His disciples? _____ maturity....to “grow us up” into “reflections” of Jesus.
2. HOW do we learn to love God and love others in such a way that we are maturing in our faith journey? **Proverbs 3:5-6 answers that question: “_____ in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in _____ YOUR WAYS acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.”**
3. Divine providence is the _____ of God by which He, with wisdom and love, cares for and directs _____ things in the universe.
 - A. God is in _____ control of all things. He is sovereign over the universe.

Psalm 103:19 states: “The LORD has set his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over everything.”

- B. God is sovereign over the _____ world.

Matthew 5:45 states: “⁴⁵ If you do this, you will be true children of your Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on good people and on evil people, and he sends rain to those who do right and to those who do wrong.”

- C. God is sovereign over the affairs of the _____.

Psalm 66:7 states: “He rules forever with his power. He keeps his eye on the nations, so people should not turn against him.”

- D. God is sovereign over human _____.

Galatians 1:15 states: “¹⁵ God had special plans for me and set me apart for his work even before I was born.....”

- E. God is sovereign regarding human _____ and _____.

Luke 1:52 states: "He has brought down rulers from their thrones and raised up the humble."

F. God is sovereign concerning the _____ of His people.

II Thessalonians 3:3 states: "...the Lord is faithful and will give you strength and will protect you from the Evil One."

Matthew 6:25-33 – "So, I tell you, don't worry about the food or drink you need to live, or about the clothes you need for your body. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes. ²⁶ Look at the birds in the air. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds. ²⁷ You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it.

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? Look at how the lilies in the field grow. They don't work or make clothes for themselves. ²⁹ But I tell you that even Solomon with his riches was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. ³⁰ God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today but tomorrow is thrown into the fire. So you can be even more sure that God will clothe you. Don't have so little faith! ³¹ Don't worry and say, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³² The people who don't know God keep trying to get these things, and your Father in heaven knows you need them. ³³ Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well."

4. Therefore, in order to "seek God 1st" in our lives, we have to _____ the habit of worrying in order to fully trust Him.
5. "Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles. It takes away today's _____."
6. The word worry comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning "to _____" or "to strangle."
7. Worry is faith in the _____, trust in the unpleasant, assurance of disaster and belief in defeat...worry is wasting today's time to clutter up tomorrow's opportunities with yesterday's troubles.