



First Resort

One of the most common challenges that I see is that most of us do not make our dependence on God the priority in all our endeavors. We are all guilty of this and what I hope this teaching does is to challenge you to make the Lord your **first resort** in your everything.

We can't live life making the Lord the last resort. We will crush and burn and then come to the Lord limbless. Many times, it is too **"late"** when we turn to God, and we have experienced a lot of turmoil and tragedy only to wake up at last (if we do) and turn to God.

a) Many people when they encounter any challenge the first thing they do is call, **Dad, mom, grandma, trusted friends, siblings, Google, Facebook** Etc.

i) Rather, it should be **throne before the phone.**

b) As long as we have **many choices**, God might end up as our **last resort.**

i) We need to trim down our options.

c) We need to develop a lifestyle to **look to Him before we employ**

any human effort.

i) We need to look to Him first and foremost.

ii) Honestly, I'm guilty of not doing this well enough. I remember one day I was writing this, and I had to stop and pray and ask God to forgive me for not living up to this. I repented before the Lord.

d) **First resort** involves acknowledging the Lord before anyone else.

i) Seeking Godly counsel, direction, and guidance as **the very first thing—not the last thing.**

It is NOT wasted time to seek God first and make Him our very first resort before taking any action.

A. Seek ye first.

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

a) This verse is emphasizing priority. The word "*first*" is referring to "*foremost*" (Strong's Concordance) first in time or place; in any succession of things or persons (Thayer's Dictionary).

b) This includes in the time of pressure and difficulty. We are not to seek God first on a daily basis, but only to seek Him last or second when we are dealing with a difficult

moment. We should continue to seek God first.

B. Illustration: A spare tire

Most of us have cars that have a spare tire. We go to these spare tires when we have need or as a last resort.

a) *Most Christians use God as a spare tire.* They have nothing to do with Him in their daily life.

b) When they get problems, they will go and try out everything else, and if they all fail, they then turn to the Lord as their **last resort**.

c) We should make a decision to be dependent upon Him. God should be our regular tire, not our spare tire.

C. Prayer

Many people use prayer as a last resort. We are all guilty of this, but we should not stay there. We need to continuously develop a habit of communion with God as our first resort.

a) Turning to God after we have exhausted all our options is not good. We go down our list and exhaust our resources, and when we can't do it anymore, we pray. Prayer and Inquiring from the Lord should be our first agenda item.

b) **Making God our first resort simply means leaning to God and consulting Him before we apply any human effort.**

D. Loving and Trusting God.

Many of us believers love God, but do not trust Him or depend on Him regularly. Do you love God and trust Him? Loving God is not synonymous with trusting Him. True love will eventually give birth to trust, but is possible to be in a relationship with someone you do not trust.

- a) Many believers are in a relationship with God but do not trust Him, at least not on a regular basis.
- b) Trust is one of the missing major characteristics in most of the lives of believers.
- c) If we go to other things or people as a first resort, it is because we either do not know God or we trust those things more than God.
- d) Many times, when we experience a problem or a challenge, most people go to the internet for answers, parents, friends, pastor and so forth.
- e) We should live our lives continually dependent upon God and making Him our very first resort, not a last resort.

E. Jesus in the Boat

Luke 8:23-24 *"But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased,*

*and there was a calm. Mark 4:37 "And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was **now full.**"*

a) They were drowning and Jesus was right in their boat, yet they were trying to **accomplish victory and deliverance without Him.**

i) It's only after they failed that they turned to the Lord. Why did they not turn to the Lord in the first place?

b) Many people are in the same situation as these disciples. **They have Jesus in their boat, but they are busy trying to achieve everything without Him.** After all, fails, then they decide to turn to the Lord. Why do we not turn to the Lord as our first resort?

c) We can get our answers sooner as well as avoid a lot of turmoil, headaches, and heartaches if we learn to turn to the Lord as our first resort.

d) Many people have their boats full of water and are in jeopardy, then they turn to the Lord.

i) People spend all the money they have at the Doctor, then when all fails, they turn to the Lord. I can only wonder how the Lord feels about that.

ii) Mark 5:25-27 *"And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, **and had spent all that she***

had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment."

o We have all heard of Jesus. If not, now you are hearing of Him.

iii) We go to the lawyers and probably not even a thought of God runs in our minds and when we are broke and busted and we have come to the end of ourselves, then we turn to the Lord. It ought not to be this way.

e) No one has promises to help us and come to our rescue than the Lord, yet we always keep Him as our last resort. No one knows us more than the Lord, yet we talk to God once we have failed in all our other endeavors.

F. Thanksgiving.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

a) When you are blessed with something, **who do you think of giving thanks first.**

i) To some if not most people, **God is an afterthought** after they have experienced a breakthrough provision or something.

b) **We will go the extra mile to thank someone and do everything possible to show them how grateful we are, but we do little for the Lord.** Again, God is the last resort to many. We

are to give thanks to the Lord in everything, not for everything.

G. Seek and Inquire of The Lord

Therefore, **David inquired of the LORD**, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah. And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines? Then David inquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand. -1 Samuel 23:2-4

a) David had over four hundred men that had joined themselves to him as he continued to flee from Saul.

i) Inquired of the Lord

☐ A time arose where David had to make some decisions, but he did not just jump to make them.
He first went and inquired of the Lord.

☐ Notice that this was during the most difficult time of David's life. **He did not just do what he felt was good, but he went and asked the Lord.**

b) **Don't bow to pressure, go to God first.**

i) David was still God-dependent even during a time of stress, crisis, danger, and turmoil.

ii) We should learn the same lesson: **not to act out of distress or pressure, but hear from the Lord first before we take any steps forward.**

c) **We need to develop a habit of inquiring of the Lord in our decision-making.**

i) David is an exemplary example of this characteristic. Although he did not do it all the time, there are times when he continually sought the Lord before making any major decisions. For more examples of this, read 1 Samuel 23:2-4 and 1 Samuel 30:8.

d) The ephod

i) This was representative or symbolic of God's Word. Sometimes hearing from God or making God your first resort is as simple as employing the Word and biblical principles of the written Word.

H. First Fruits

Proverbs 3:9-10 *"Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."*

a) These two verses are used to encourage people to give, which I believe is what this is teaching. However, I want to draw your attention to the word **"first fruits"**

b) I believe this is **emphasizing giving to God first. It is**

emphasizing priority in our giving. We are not to give to God our **last fruits** or our **leftover fruits**. We should not give God leftovers.

- c) If we get this wrong, we will end up putting God as a last resort without even knowing. We ought to put God first in place, order, time and in our decision making.

I. Mary and Martha

Luke 10:38-42 *"Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was encumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."*

- a) There are many things that can be said about this story of Mary and Martha, but all I want to point out is the **difference in priority**.

- ☐ These two women loved the Lord, but their priorities were different.
- ☐ One wanted to know the Lord and was building her relationship with Him while the other wanted to serve the Lord.

b) We need both Mary's and Martha's in the body of Christ,
but we must not forget what the priorities are.

Make God your first Resort.

I want to end with this hymn that the Lord has put on my heart
for the reader.

**What a Friend we have in
Jesus**

Verse 1

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to
bear!

What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Verse 2

Have we trials and
temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be
discouraged,

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so
faithful?

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every
weakness,

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Verse 3

Are we weak and heavy-laden?

Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our
refuge—Take it to the Lord in
prayer;

Do thy friends despise,
forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer;

In His arms He'll take and
shield thee,

Thou wilt find a solace there.