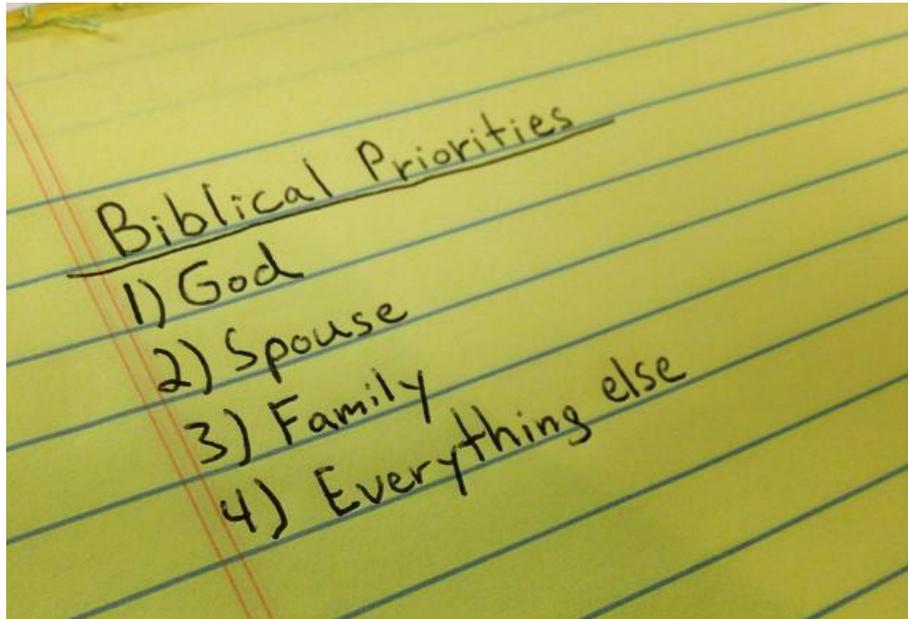


Biblical Priorities



“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.” - 1 Corinthians 13:8

I was writing an article about hard choices and priorities while reviewing some verses when God openly smacked my brain with this verse. In fact, I had to step away and meditate on this verse for a bit as I felt so compelled to look into even more. The article I was writing (but just deleted) was about hard decisions. God just showed me a different approach. Isn't His way always better? 1 Corinthians 13 is a pretty short chapter and after I read it, most of what I was trying to relate was summed up here.

1 Corinthians 13: “1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not *love* {charity}, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not *love* {charity}, it profiteth me nothing. 4 *Love* {charity} suffereth long, *and* is kind; *love* {charity} envieth not; *love* {charity} vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 *Love* {charity} never faileth; but whether *there be* prophecies,



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they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. [9](#)For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. [10](#)But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. [11](#)When I was a child, I *spoke* {spake} as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. [12](#)For now we see *in a mirror* {through a glass}, darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. [13](#)And now abideth faith, hope, *love* {charity}, these three; but the greatest of these *is love* {charity}.”

Why do we complicate what God has made so simple? Why do we seek worldly advice and objects above God’s promises? Why do we not turn to God as our first for answers, protection, provision, healing, etc...?

1. **Love God above all else.** [Mark 12:30-31](#) states “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. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.” It is of the up most importance to love God above all else, at all times. Sounds simple, but only a real warrior can do it.
2. **Give everything to God.** He gave his only son for you, He gave everything. In the most famous verse [John 3:16](#): “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Give God everything or you cannot say you honestly tried.
3. **Your first ministry is at home.** Let’s get this out of the way. If you don’t like it then tough marbles! Your family is more important than anything else, even yourself. [1 Timothy 5:8](#) states: “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” That’s pretty straight forward. Before you begin to get involved in ministry to help others, volunteer at church, work, spend time with friends, have personal time, etc... God states it’s more important to provide for your own home first. In fact, God wants you to love you family above all else. [Proverbs 11:29](#) states: “He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.” Be wise.
4. **Honor and Respect your spouse.** [Ephesians 5:33](#) states: “Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” Rid yourself of pride, respect their heart, pray fiercely together, love openly (honest and open compassionate communication) and compromise to God’s will for both of you.
5. **Spend quality time to raise your children right.** [Proverbs 22:6](#) states: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Invest quality time in your children as much as you can. [Ephesians 6:4](#) also adds: “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
6. **Honor your Father and Mother.** [Ephesians 6:2](#) “Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)” You don’t have to submit to their every demand, but to be respectful and honor them. Seek how God wants to direct your life. If your parents disagree with your decisions (based on your direction from God), you can still honor their views by verbally validating their expressed opinions and thank them for their love toward you.
7. **The world Lies** and your heart is easy to consume the lies. God knows this, so he warns us in [Proverbs 3:5](#): “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”



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Sure we all want to be successful; but, by whose standard? The world's or God's? Where you place your time and effort will reveal your true intentions (Luke 12:24). Everything else is in vain outside the will of God ("A Song of degrees for Solomon. Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain." – Psalm 127:1). God showed me that speaking in tongues, prophecy, teaching, preaching, knowledge, even wisdom, etc... is nothing without love. Love is established at home, first. Once you commit your life to the above scriptural ideas then are you qualified to step out into the world as a missionary. I was recently faced with the decision to choose a path that would have been harmful to my family (big worldly gain for me) or a righteous path (humbled place). Keeping your faith hinged and centered on Christ will make these decisions easier.

Read verses 4-8 above again for the Bible's definition of love. Are you displaying love? Are you really loving God and your family or just providing surface level gestures to get by? Yes, the righteous path can be and usually is harder. God never promised an easy way. Note to self, deception can be easily disguised as "opportunity." The righteous path is always more rewarding. A quick summary of priorities should be: 1) God, 2) Spouse, 3) Family, 4) All other stuff. Train hard and work smart to create habits to Love God, love your family, love yourself and love others.

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