

Pastor Joseph Zwanziger
1 CORINTHIANS
Part 16: First Things First

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

The first is a big thing to God. The first thing grabs people's attention. The first thing is often the main thing. The first thing is usually what you remember.

[Proverbs 3.5-6]

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct Your paths.

[Isaiah 30.21]

Your own ears will hear him, right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left.

[1 Corinthians 16.1-4]

*Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. **On the first day** of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once. When I come, I will write letters of recommendation for the messengers you choose to deliver your gift to Jerusalem. And if it seems appropriate for me to go along, they can travel with me.*

Three Ways to Put the Holy Spirit FIRST in Our Lives

- 1. Learn and spend time speaking *HIS* language.** (*Ask for and spend time praying in the Spirit.*)

[Jude 20-21]

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

[Romans 8.26, NLT]

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

- 2. Prioritize Time with Him (Daily Devotional Life)**

A. Read the Bible

[Psalm 119.105, NKJV]

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

B. Personal Worship

[Romans 12.1, NIV]

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship.

C. Prayer

[Philippians 4.6-7, NKJV]

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

You learn how He leads you when you spend time with Him.

3. Spend Time Listening to His Voice

[2 Timothy 2.20-21]

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Just because you're in a Great House, it doesn't mean that you are automatically set for great things.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some reasons that the **FIRST** thing is usually important in our daily lives, culture, and world? Why is the **FIRST** important in God's Word?
2. Do you think that most church folks treat giving as a priority or as an afterthought? What factors influence those attitudes or philosophies?
3. How is The Holy Spirit a "helper" to you? Share some life examples.
4. Praying in the Holy Spirit builds our faith up. [Romans 8.26] How can we learn HIS language and spend time using it? When are practical times to do that?
5. What does The Holy Spirit's sound like to you? What are some things The Spirit has been saying to you?
6. How can you position yourself in a place to hear The Holy Spirit? What things need to be added to your life? What are some things that need to be eliminated in you environment?
7. Pray for more of a nearness, understanding, and intimacy with The Holy Spirit for yourself and those around you.