

How to put first things first- Part 1

**Three reasons why most of us live with two sets of priorities:**

1. We are **DECEIVED**. We honestly don't see the discrepancy between what we think and say, and how we actually live.
2. We are **AFRAID**. Though we long to put "first things first," we simply do not believe that God will supply our needs if we give Him the first portion of our time, our lives, and our money.
3. We have **FAILED** repeatedly. Our sincere and honest efforts to put "first things first" in the past lasted only a short time and ended with frustration and disillusionment with ourselves.

So, what's the "Missing Ingredient" to living out our priorities?

- It's a **RARELY USED** word.
- It's a **FRUIT** of the Spirit.
- It comes to us by **GRACE**.
- We **ADMIRE** it in others.
- It's **ESSENTIAL** for putting "first things first."

**The Word = DISCIPLINE / SELF CONTROL**

**Definition: Discipline is doing what needs to be done when it needs to be done.**

The Dynamics of Biblical Discipline Can Be Summed Up in 2 Words:

**DELAYED GRATIFICATION**

*All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

**Hebrews 12:11 (NASB)**

Discussion Questions

1. What does living by "two sets" of priorities produce in our emotional and spiritual lives?
2. List two common reasons why we tend to avoid dealing deeply with priority issues even when we know it's important.
3. Define discipline. How does this definition differ from your thinking about "discipline" in the past?
4. Why is it critical to see discipline in a positive light?