



Daily Verse and Comment

[Matthew 6:33](#)

(33) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

New King James Version

What do we actually *do* to "seek first the [Kingdom of God](#)"? *How* do we in our daily actions put [God](#) first? How do we take Christ's abstract statement and turn it into concrete steps that we can employ in our lives? One answer is [Luke 21:36](#). Seeking God—is the solution to all our problems. [Luke 21:36](#) gives us the first step in implementing that solution—[praying always](#). This is a foundation on which to build eternal life.

By being in conscious and constant communication, we are acknowledging God. We are bringing Him into the picture, obeying [Matthew 6:33](#) by seeking Him first. When we do that, we create the opportunity to put some interesting dynamics into action that will facilitate overcoming.

Could we have any better companion than God? With no other could we possibly find better fellowship. God designed prayer to be an act by a free-moral agent who consciously chooses to be with Him to develop their relationship. When we pray, we acknowledge that we are in the presence of God, giving Him the opportunity to rub off on us, like iron sharpening iron ([Proverbs 27:17](#)).

When person A rubs off on person B, it implies that B becomes a little more like A—he begins to take on the other's characteristics. The same holds true with the relationship between God and us. Who has the easier time dealing with temptation—God or us? Of course, God does ([James 1:13](#))! It follows, then, that if the more God rubs off on us, the more we become like Him—the more successful our battle against temptation becomes. The more God rubs off on us, the more the battle becomes God's, not ours.

To have the right kind of fellowship and relationship with God, we have to be aware of the reality that we are *always* in His presence; He is "a God near at hand" ([Jeremiah 23:23](#)). Because God has promised never to leave or forsake us ([Hebrews 13:5](#)), and since we are the Temple where His Spirit dwells ([I Corinthians 3:16](#)), God is constantly with us. For His children, the question is never whether He is present, but whether we *acknowledge* His presence. Praying always accomplishes this.

If being in the presence of a friend of fine character improves us on a human level ([Proverbs 13:20](#)), how much more true is this when we are in the presence of God Himself, the very definition of character and [wisdom](#)? That is how He can rub off on us: We are with Him, in His fellowship, in His presence, through prayer. When it comes to His children, He is never way off somewhere, if we would but acknowledge this fact.

God designed human beings to adapt to their environment. Before conversion, [this world](#) and its influences were molding us into an anti-God form. Acknowledging God's presence is the antidote that counteracts the influence under which we have lived since birth.

God's calling is an invitation to fellowship with Him, and getting to know Him is our salvation ([John 17:3](#)). If this is so, then the means—prayer—is a vital part of the foundation on which we need to build. That is the message of [Luke 21:36](#). Praying always leads to overcoming, and both will lead to an escape from [God's wrath](#) and fellowship with Christ on into God's Kingdom.

Notice another illustration of the power of presence. What happens to us when we are around people who are pessimistic, angry, fearful, whining? Compare that to our reaction when around those who are positive and enthusiastic, facing life with gentle humor, determination, and energy. The former can quickly drain and depress us, while the latter can energize and enthuse us. In these situations, a literal transference of a spiritual attitude takes place. However, as we increase our physical distance from either of these examples, their power to influence erodes.

What happens on the human plane is no different from what happens spiritually. The spirit—good or bad—of people radiates out from them. It

can affect, even change our spirit. Likewise, Satan's spirit permeates our environment, influencing us unless we choose to counteract it.

That choice is praying at every opportunity, willingly submitting ourselves to the persuasion of the most positive, righteous, and unchanging attitudes that exist in the entire universe! This is why after prayer, after spending time in the presence of God, people can feel [peace](#), [joy](#), or confidence. On the other hand, they can also feel humbled and chastened because God has led them to remorse and [repentance](#). Prayer changes things—us.

— Pat Higgins

To learn more, see:

[Praying Always \(Part Four\)](#)

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