

FORCE OF HABIT #2
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“When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.”

Genesis 14:14-15 NIV

“All these men were under the supervision of their father for the music of the temple of the LORD, with cymbals, lyres and harps, for the ministry at the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under the supervision of the king. Along with their relatives—all of them trained and skilled in music for the LORD—they numbered 288.” *1 Chronicles 25:6-7 NIV*

He also told them this parable: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.”

Luke 6:39-40 NIV

SEE _____ → SEE _____ → SEE _____

SEE _____ → SEE _____ → SEE _____

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. *Acts 13:1-3 NIV*

THE HABIT OF PUTTING GOD FIRST = RECOGNITION + ACTION

RECOGNIZE IT'S WHAT _____.

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.” *Exodus 20:2-3 NIV*

“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:31-33 NIV

RECONGIZE IT'S WHAT _____.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: ¹⁶for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷He ^[z]is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.” *Colossians 1:15-18 NASB*

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” *Rev. 22:13 NIV*

RECOGNIZE IT'S WHERE _____.

“Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM, THAT IT WOULD BE PAID BACK TO HIM? For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.” *Rom. 11:33-36*

WHEN I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THESE TRUTHS I START TO ...

GOD FIRST.

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” Col. 3:1-2

“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.” Psalm 143:8 NIV

“Love the Lord your God...with all your mind.” Matthew 22:37 NIV

GOD FIRST.

“I have become a sign to many; you are my strong refuge. My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.” Psalm 71:7-9 NIV

“May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”

“Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.” Psalm 51:15 NIV

GOD FIRST.

WHERE I PUT MY _____.

“For the generations to come this burnt offering is to be made regularly at the entrance to the tent of meeting, before the LORD. There I will meet you and speak to you.” Exodus 29:42 NIV

“Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you’ll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you’re serving is Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24 MSG

WHERE I PUT MY _____.

“Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Luke 12:33-34 NIV

“Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 MSG

WHERE I INVEST MY _____.

“He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.” Ephesians 2:10 MSG

HOW I MAKE MY _____.

“The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” John 8:29 NIV

“So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.” 2 Cor. 5:9 NIV

FOR DISCUSSION:

WHAT OBSERVER OF YOUR LIFESTYLE SAY IS “FIRST” IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

WHY DOES GOD’S DESIRE AND REQUEST THAT HE BE FIRST MAKE SENSE TO YOU?

WHAT ARE SOME AREAS IN YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU NEED TO START PUTTING HIM FIRST?

WHO WILL YOU TELL THAT TO WHO WILL HOLD YOU ACCOUNTABLE?

