

5th November 2023

7 Things I Desire for the Household of Faith



We have recently celebrated our sixth anniversary. The Lord has blessed us with a strong core of faithful members. Each week in September, we are inspired by the faith of our men and their dedication to the word.

There are many things we want to empower members of the Household of Faith to do. Here are seven that I feel are most basic and yet so important.

- **1. Attendance:** For a new congregation, either we thrive or become stagnant. We encourage every member to be regular at the weekly Sunday morning worships. Members who cannot come may live stream at home. Hebrews 10:25 exhorts us not to forsake the assembly.
- **2. Behaviour:** All members are taught to follow Jesus and become more like Him each day. Members are encouraged to touch one another, and all they come in contact with, with the love of Jesus. As the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13), we are to extend the grace of God, accord value to everyone and treat all with agape love.
- **3. Commitment:** We expect every member to give top priority to kingdom matters at the Household of Faith. As Jesus loved the church and gave His life for it, we are encouraged by many who are walking in His steps. We should not allow the distractions of this life to prevent us from seeking first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).
- **4. Foundation:** Our faith must be built on the solid rock of the word of God or it will not stand when the rain and storm assail. Instead

- of searching the internet to find material that echoes our point of view, we encourage all members to study the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15) and like the early Christians in Berea, to search the scriptures to test whether those things are valid (Acts 17:11).
- **5. Giving:** In order not to distract our members, we only require members to give as God has prospered (2 Corinthians 9:7) on Sundays and once a year, on Missions Sunday in December. We do not tell members how much to give, but allow everyone to decide on his response to the blessings received from our Father. Members are encouraged to grow in the grace of giving and lay up treasures in heaven through sacrificial offerings to support the work we are doing at home and abroad.
- **6. Hospitality:** This is the queen of all virtues the sum total of our Christian devotion to God. God has blessed us with so many opportunities to reach out, share in our weekly agape feast, open our homes and assist those in need. These tasks should not be carried out by the current few, but involve every member. Romans 12:13 tells us to share with God's people who are in need.
- **7. Prayer:** I believe that the most powerful congregation in the world is not the largest, most active or richest. The most powerful congregation is the church where every member gets down on their knees and prays.



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Introduction

I. WHO ARE IN THE KINGDOM

Their blessedness - Matthew 5:3-12

Their relationship with the world - Matthew 5:13-16

II. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM

In contrast to the Law - Matthew 5:17-48

In relation to God - Matthew 6:1-33

- 1 Alms
- 2 Prayer 3 Fasting
- 4 Treasures
- 5 Vision Perspective
- 6 Service
- 7 Worry



7. Worry

Do you worry? Why?

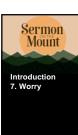
- Afraid of what is comingUnable to face the situation
- Do not have the resources to cope \ldots

We worry about many things

- Students: grades, relationships Workers: deadlines and quotas Old folks: health and rising costs

Like everything else, the Bible has the answer! Look no further...

Sermon Mount	Matthew 6:25-34			
Introduction 7. Worry	Therefore, I tell you, don't be anxious for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear.			
	Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing?			
	See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns.			
	Your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you of much more value than they?			



Matthew 6:25-34

"Which of you, by being anxious, can add one cubit to the measure of his life?

Why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They don't toil, neither do they spin, yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, won't he much more clothe you, you of little faith?



Matthew 6:25-34

"Therefore don't be anxious, saying, 'What will we eat?', 'What will we drink?' or, 'With what will we be clothed?'

"For the Gentiles seek after all these things, for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

"But seek first God's Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well.

"Therefore don't be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day's own evil is sufficient."



Introduction 7. Worry Matthew 6:25-34

Who is Your Father?

We all have 2 fathers – whom do we trust more?

 If we trust our earthly father - Therefore, I tell you, don't be anxious for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear.

Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

 But if we trust our Father in heaven - See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns.

Your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you of much more value than they?

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The Perspective from Heaven

"Which of you, by being anxious, can add one cubit to the measure of his life?"





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Introduction 7. Worry Matthew 6:25-34 Who is Your Father? Look from Heaven's View

Trust Your Father in Heaven

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So easy to worry, even if we have everything. So difficult to trust

But if we trust our Father in heaven

- Do not need to have everything
- Even in want e.g. job, health etc

Introduction 7. Worry Matthew 6:25-34 Who is Your Father? Look from Heaven's View

Trust Your Father in Heaven

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1 Kings 3:10-13 The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. God said to him, Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for yourself long life, neither have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice; behold, I have done according to your word: behold, I have given you a wise and an understanding heart; so that there has been none like you before you, neither after you shall any arise like you.

I have also given you that which you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there shall not be any among the kings like you, all your days.



Conclusion

Therefore don't be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day's own evil is sufficient.





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