

# Seek first the kingdom of God

In Matthew chapter six, it's stated that we as believers should, "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

This statement comes after the previous verses where it was mentioned that we should not worry about our life.

I want you to truly think about something for a minute: what does it mean to you to seek first the kingdom of God?

Are you currently doing that, have you ever even considered it, or is this just a nice thought that is stated every now and then from the pulpit but never put into practice in your own life?

I want to challenge you, right along with myself, to let this sink in deep. The very fiber of your being should breathe this.

The trajectory of your life should be built on this principle, yet even the events of each and every individual day should be looking to this particular verse for guidance and direction. It's something I'm currently pounding away at in my own life, and it's not easy.

**"This is the day the Lord has made."**

-PSALM 118:24



MISSIONARY NATALI WILLIAMS

What if you stopped everything you were doing, took a long, hard look at your life, schedule, and testimony, and asked yourself, "Am I really seeking after God before anything else? Is that what my life says to others? Most importantly, is that what my life says to God?"

There are only a certain number of hours that make up a day, those days make up a week, and those weeks make up a year, and so on.

What is your priority within those moments that make up your life? If our priority looks like anything other than seeking after Him, it's misplaced.

Our priority is our relationship with God, not with anyone else, no matter how close to you they might be. If who we go to for advice on a hard topic is not

first and foremost God, then begin to run to him and make it intentional time spent with Him.

I'm currently working up to tithing my time (which is roughly 2 hours per day), and right now I am giving 1 1/2 hours a day in abiding with God. It's not a legalistic thing, but a heart matter.

Do I believe that I have to do this, of course not, but I want my time to speak for itself. I want to grow in Him and hear what He has to say in my life. I want to be so near to His heart that I hear Him before the noise that surrounds me.

I purposely set time aside in my schedule to do this. If the goal of two hours seems like an impossibility, start small.

Thirty minutes is a good obtainable goal for even the busiest of people. If my life is surrounded by and built on my time with Him, then I believe there's a good possibility that I'm working on seeking Him first.

*Natali Williams is a missionary to West Africa through the Assemblies of God. She can be reached via email at bertienews@ncweeklies.com.*

# Don't quit

**"Be still and know that I am God."**

-PSALM 46:10



PASTOR WALLACE PHILLIPS

"...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Who better to write such a WORD to the Philippian church and to all believers? Who better than Paul, the great Apostle?

He could relate to a spirit of "quit." He could relate to "I am done!"

Let's make certain that we understand that the God who started us out on this race is well-able to keep us throughout the entire journey. He is so faithful. And He is the only one that can take the negative things of this life that distract us and turn them out to work for our good.

Paul reminded the Romans of this in Romans 8:28..."For

we know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord." No matter what type of day or week you have keep reminded that He is with you. Whatever you do..."Don't quit!"

The Children of Israel taught us to endure hardship and difficult times. They were carted off some 500 miles from their homeland and taken captive in a strange land during the Babylonian captivity. It was then they lost their rights; men were emasculated and the women were raped in many cases. Yet God raises up the prophet Jeremiah to speak an amazing word to them.

That word is quoted so many times in the lives of believers - "For I **knew** the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11.

Whatever you do....Don't Quit!

*Dr. Wallace Phillips is Sr. Pastor at Carpenter's Shop International Church in Ahoskie. Join them this Sunday at 10 a.m. or online at www.csicministries.com.*

# Special events

Church announcements are published each week in the Bertie Ledger-Advance. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is 10 a.m. each Monday. Submissions may be emailed to [twhite@ncweeklies.com](mailto:twhite@ncweeklies.com).

**March 15-16**

*Revival Services*

**WINDSOR** - Revival Services will continue March 15-16 at Pleasant Oak Missionary Baptist Church.

Services begin nightly at 7 p.m.

Guest speakers include: the Rev. Darren Whitehurst of First Baptist Church of Kelford (Wednesday) and the Rev. Ronald Taylor of First Baptist Aulander (Thursday).

Each pastor will be accompanied by his choir, ushers and congregation.

The Pastor, the Rev. Linward James, and congregation invite the public to attend.

**March 18**

*Youth Talent Explosion*

**POWELLSVILLE** - The Youth Ministry will hold a Youth Talent Explosion at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 18 at First Missionary Baptist Church of Powellsville.

The event will include singing, dancing, comedy, giveaways, food and more.

The MC will be Comedian Peaty Ray Red, who will give a comedy performance.

For more information, call Genia Canada at 252-333-5117 or Jaaron Jenkins at 252-642-7828.

The Pastor, The Rev. Akeem Z. Walker, and congregation invite the public to attend.

*Black History Event*

**WINDSOR** - A Black History Program titled "Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future" is planned for 3 p.m. Saturday, March 18 at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church.

The program will include skits, poems and songs.

A fashion show is planned where participants can feature their Black History attire.

A "southern soul meal" will follow the service.

The Pastor, Kennedy L. Barber, and congregation invite the public to attend.

**March 19**

*Pastoral Anniversary*

**WINDSOR** - The 27<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor Willie O. Speller is planned for Sunday, March 19 at St. James Church.

At 11 a.m., the service will feature Minister Maggie Mensah. Dinner will follow.

At 4 p.m. Bishop Daniel Gilliam will deliver the sermon. His choir, ushers and congregation will accompany him.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

*Anniversary Celebration*

**MERRY HILL** - The Peterson Chapel Mass Choir will celebrate its anniversary at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 19 at Peterson Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

The theme will be "The Joy of Christ."

Joining in the celebration will be The Voices of Zion, The Indian Woods Mass Choir, The Singing Morticians and Clint Freeman and Unity.

Bishop J.C. Watford of Rountree Temple of Praise will serve as worship leader.

The Pastor, the Rev. Percell Whitaker, and congregation invite the public to attend.

**March 22-24**

*Women's Conference*

**WINDSOR** - Women's Conference 2017 is planned for March 22-24 at Victory Temple Church of God in Christ.

Services begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

Speakers include Pastor Clara Albritton of Your Day of Deliverance Church in Washington, Dr. Chris B. Cordon of Victory Temple and evangelist Ida Freeman-Owens of Victory Temple.

The church is located at 116 Country Club Rd. in Windsor.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Gary Cordon, and congregation invite the public to attend.

**March 26**

*Special Program*

**WINDSOR** - A program titled Great Women of the Bible is planned for 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26 at Beacon Light Baptist Church.

The church is located at 792 Grabtown Rd. in Windsor.

The Pastor, the Rev. George Futrell, and congregation invite the public to attend.

**April 9**

*Palm Sunday Mass*

**WINDSOR** - Palm Sunday Mass will be held at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, April 9 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

The service, which will be held at the Windsor United Methodist Church located at 408 South Queen St. in Windsor, will include the distribution of Palms.

The Pastor, Father Mike Kerin, and congregation invite the public to attend.



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1: 20, 21



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