

Resolve to Put God First in Everything

How many of you have made New Year's resolutions? A recent article in *Inc.* magazine revealed that about 60% of us make resolutions but only about 8% of us are successful in keeping them.

Here are the top 10 New Year's resolutions, according to the survey of 2,000 people:

1. **Diet or eat healthier (71 percent)**
2. **Exercise more (65 percent)**
3. **Lose weight (54 percent)**
4. **Save more and spend less (32 percent)**
5. **Learn a new skill or hobby (26 percent)**
6. **Quit smoking (21 percent)**
7. **Read more (17 percent)**
8. **Find another job (16 percent)**
9. **Drink less alcohol (15 percent)**
10. **Spend more time with family and friends (13 percent)**

Any guesses as to how long those resolutions will last? More than half of those polled said they failed their resolution before January 31st.

I have a better resolution for you to consider today. Let's resolve to put God first in all things. Jesus said, "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."

Let's resolve this year to put God first in giving. Let me suggest one key area where you need to put God first, your giving. We know God commands us to be generous and, frankly, that is a struggle for many. We worry that we might not be able to afford to give. Yet the words of Jesus are true that if we put God first, even in our finances, He will provide us all we need.

Let me share with you one way you can assure that God will always come first in your finances. Set up your giving to be automatic! Throughout the month of January, we will be highlighting recurring giving. You can simply go to our website at, **give your site address**, and follow the easy steps to set up your giving automatically. Then, whether you are here or away, you honor the Lord with the first fruits of your earning.

Our goal here is to make the giving process as easy as possible for you and setting up recurring giving is the easiest way of all. No matter how you give here, always remember that your generosity allows us to accomplish all we do. We can't do what we do without you!
