

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MARKERS

"Spiritual Growth Marker: Priority"

pri-or-i-ty (prī-ôrĭ-tē)

Precedence, especially established by order of importance or urgency.



The Jar and Priorities:

If I _____

Then I _____

The Startling Truth

Biblical Growth Markers are _____ in the lives of many who _____ to be _____

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built."

- Luke 6:46-48

Barna Group Survey: Religion in America

1. Faith/Spirituality, Not _____
2. _____/Individualized Faith
3. Biblical Literacy Is _____

"There is shockingly little growth evident in people's understanding of the fundamental themes and application of biblical principles."

4. Personal Spiritual Evaluation Is _____

God's True North: _____ the Kingdom of God, and

Seek First the Kingdom

"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. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

- Matthew 6:31-34

Pursue the Kingdom of God With all I've Got

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 3:12-14

- see Romans 12:1b-2a

"Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

- Hebrews 12:1b-3

_____ is the day to establish God's
True North as the priority in my life.

"God set a certain day, calling it 'Today'. This he did when a long time later he spoke through David: 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.'"

- Hebrews 4:7

Discerning between the Good, Better, Best

"This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God."

- Philippians 1:9-11

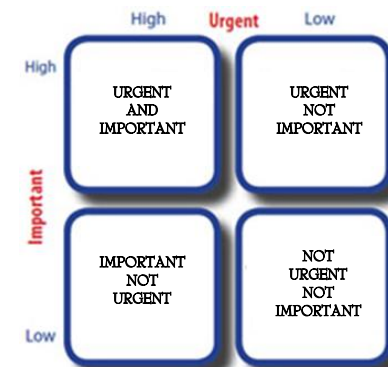
◆ Distinction between _____ and _____

◆ Distinction between _____ and _____

"God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

- 2 Corinthians 9:8

◆ Distinction between _____ and _____



There will be situations in our lives when God's call to be like Jesus will include eliminating something that in and of itself is not wrong, yet in responding with obedience there will be spiritual growth that otherwise would have been missed.

Sermon in a Sentence:

My Spiritual Growth can be evaluated by whether or not I am seeking first the Kingdom of God and pursuing God's True North with everything I've got.