FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

January 12, 2020
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- In Acts 12 The Church Was Finding Great Success And Growth Even As Herod Was Violently Harassing Them

- In Acts 12:5 We Find The Response Of The Church -- *The Church Is Offering Up “Constant Prayer”*

- The Lord Sent An Angel Who Ushers Peter Out Of Prison

- Herod, Has Been Violent To The People Of God -- Suffers A Violent Death

- In Acts 12:24 *“The Word Of God Grew And Multiplied”*
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

Barnabas And Saul Return From Their Missions Journey Having Completed Their Ministry Assignment The Question Is “What’s Next?”

Acts 13:1-5 (NIV) (1) 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. (2) 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." (3) So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. (4) The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. (5) When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- In Acts 13:1-5 -- As They Ministered To The Lord & Fasted The Holy Spirit Spoke To Them

- Saying: “Separate Barnabas And Saul For The Work I Have Called Them To”

- Fasting / Praying / Laying On Hands / Sending
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

First Things We Must Hear From God!


How Do We Get From God – What He Has Planned For Us?

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NIV) (9) However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- (10) but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- There Was A Time When We Had No Clue What God Had In Mind For Us – However God Has Revealed What God Has Prepared By His Spirit

- He Has Some Things Prepared – Fully Ready To Go – For Those Who Love Him

  He Reveals That Plan – By His Spirit!
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- Once We Seek The Lord -- Stop To Listen To What He Is Saying -- We Can Act On It


- “First” Indicates Priority

- “First” = Most Important -- Foundational -- Priority
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- How Important Is It?
- How Urgent Is It?
- Does It Fit In With God's Revealed Will & Plan?
- What Level Of Importance Should I Attach To This?

- These Questions Are Settled When We Determine And Set Our Priorities. (According to God’s Revealed Plan)
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- As Believers We Can’t Afford To Miss This -- We Are Called To Prioritize Our Lives Around God And His Call

- We Put God First In All Things. Every Other Concern Is Of Secondary Importance

- Matthew 6:33 (NIV) (33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- Our Faith Is In One Who Has First Place In The Universe And Is To Be Given First Place In Our Lives

- Revelation 22:13 (NIV) (13) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

- The First And The Last = He Can And Will Reveal To Us What No Eye Has Seen, No Ear Has Heard, No Mind Has Conceived, And What God Has Prepared For Us -- By His Very Spirit!
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- God Will Reveal His Will to Us and Answer Our Prayers – If We Will Pray

- The Prerequisite for Answered Prayer Is We Must Pray

- Great Things Will Happen As We Pray

- How Can We Know What God Wants Without Communication – Which Is What Prayer Is?
We Will Only Achieve True Godly Success When We Unite With God's Will And Plans --We Find That Through Prayer.

Prov 16:1 (NIV) "To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue."

God Wants To Use Us For His Glory To Successfully Fulfill His Plans

We Need To Be In His Presence To Hear The Reply From His Tongue
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

■ First – We Pray And Find God's Will — & God's Equipping

■ Next – We Formulate A Plan

■ Eph 5:15 – 16 (NIV) "Be very careful, then, how you live— not as unwise but as wise," (16) "making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

■ Luke 14:28 (NIV) (28) "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?"
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

**Reasons To Plan**

1. Planning Shows Responsibility And Proper Care For the Opportunities We Have Been Given

2. Planning Helps Us To Find Purpose -- To Live As Wise Instead Of Unwise

3. Planning Helps Us To Make The Most Of Our Time So That We Do Not Squander It
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

■ A BETTER REASON TO PLAN:

■ God Has A Purpose, Will And Direction For Our Lives Which Becomes Powerful, Effective, And Successful When Paired With A God Directed Plan

■ It’s The Plan From God That Ultimately Brings The Goal And Dream To Fruition
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- Spiritual Growth Can Be Assisted By Adequate Planning
- The Possibilities Of Growth Are Virtually Unlimited For You This New Year In The Areas Of:
  - Personal Evangelism
  - Personal Discipleship
  - Worship
  - Prayer
  - Bible Study
  - Gifts That Build Up The Church
  - Giving

- God Has A Plan For You!
- Spend Adequate Time In Planning And Preparation
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- 4 Areas Of First Things Planning And Purpose For 2020
- First Things *Fundamentals* – Re-dig The Wells
- First Things *Family*
- First Things *Faithfulness*
- First Things *Faith For Breakthroughs* And Miracles
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

5 Places Of Power

1. The Place Of Righteousness. Right Standing
2. The Place Of Waiting And Surrender To The Lord
3. The Place Of Praise
4. The Place Of Faith
5. The Place Of Prayer And Of Fasting
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

Church Vision – CFA's New Day

- Season Of Revival And Restoration
- House That Is Full
- Powerful Life Impacting Ministry
- Spirit Led & Spirit Filled Ministries
- Church Out Of Debt. Facilities Paid Off.
- All Spiritual Mountains & Blockages Removed
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

2020 A Year Of Fullness

- An Overflowing And Abundant Life

- John 10:10 (NIV) (10) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
Favor = The Hand Of The Lord Moving To Open Doors Bring Forth The Blessing While Holding Back The Devourer

John 12:26 (NIV) (26) Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Proverbs 12:2 (NIV) (2) A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but the LORD condemns a crafty man
Psalm 5:12 (NIV) (12) For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

Psalm 30:5 (NIV) (5) For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

2020 a Year of Fruitfulness

■ A Productive Year – Fruitful And Blessed

■ John 15:5-8 (NIV) (5) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (6) If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. (7) If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (8) This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

■ Fruitfulness Is The Nurturing Of Godly Virtues
■ It Is Planting The Word Of God And Seeing It Grow
■ It Manifests Itself As Godliness In The Believer

■ Fruitfulness Is About Increase -- Productivity -- Results
■ It Happens As We Remain Connected To The Vine -- Jesus Christ
■ There Is No Fruitfulness Apart From Connection To Christ
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- Many Times We Live Beneath Our Privileges
- *Living Below Our Privileges In:*
- *Health  Healing  Joy  Victory*

- *The Giver Of Life Has Come To Give*
- *His Life Is Abundant — Filled With Fullness, Favor Fruitfulness*
Focus on More of God – Pursue Passion for God

1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV) (8) For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Godliness Is An Eternal Benefit And Consequence
FIRST THINGS FOCUS: 2020

- In Order To Have Godly Success – To Achieve God's Will – To Find His Purpose In 2020:

- Pursuing (And Following) God Him Must Be – #1 Priority

- He Alone Can Deliver Fulness – Favor – And Fruitfulness – There Is True Satisfaction In Him!