

*“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33 NIV*

Sometime I was talking with someone who lived in the Deep South, and the conversation turned to summer. Now down south the summers are brutal, hot and humid. By and large people stay inside, and it is difficult to do much of anything until fall. In fact when I was visiting in the south when fall arrived, it was strange, being a native northerner myself to hear a weather forecaster exclaim “Boy am I glad that summer is over!”

The point is, hot or not we cherish the summer, because we know what the winter is like. There may be a few outdoor activities then, but by and large all of us do our best play and activity in the summer months. Many of us go on vacations for a change of scenery, visit family or just go somewhere else to have fun.

What can get lost in all of this, even for devoted people of faith, is the commitment to our Lord. Worship can get set aside for an earlier start on a trip. We may not even take the time to pray before we set out on a trip for safe traveling mercies. Consider something even MORE radical; do we pray and ask God’s help in planning a vacation?

When we read those familiar words from Matthew’s gospel, notice Jesus doesn’t spell out what *“all these things”* are.

I suspect that we could go so far as to include all the wonderful activities we partake of in the summer.

We recently returned from short trip to visit my wife’s family in Indiana. Knowing that the time was limited I prayed for God to work out the opportunities. Not only did our goal come to pass, but we visited twice with a family member we hadn’t seen in number of years.

One of things we tend to do is to compartmentalize our faith. Obviously, it is front and center at worship or at life’s challenging or difficult moments. But as God is with us 24/7, and our baptism makes us God’s children 24/7, shouldn’t we seek God on a basis striving for a walk with God that includes all aspects of our life 24/7?

What is one area of your life you haven’t given over to God, or haven’t thought about seeking God’s guidance for?

God really does want good for all of us. While seeking God’s help in vacation planning maybe one way bringing God into everyday life, I’m sure that there are others. “Seek first” says Jesus. May we do so early and often!

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