

## Relationship With Jesus, Comes Before Serving Him

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**Scripture:** Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus said, "Not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord!" shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; **but he that does the will of My Father which is in Heaven.** Many will say unto Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your Name? and in Your Name cast out demons? and in Your Name done many wonderful works?" and then I will profess unto them, "**I never knew you: depart from Me, you that work iniquity.**" (lawlessness)

**In our Christian life, our service of the Lord, must come from a relationship with Him and hearing His voice, not by our own initiative. Self initiated service of the Lord is unacceptable to Him. Jesus is the Way.** John 14:6. **In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.** Proverbs 3:6. **As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** Romans 8:14. **We are saved to serve the Lord.** Luke 9:23,24. **Well done you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter into the joy of your Lord.** Matthew 25:21. **"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," says the Lord.** Isaiah 55:8.

Jesus said, **"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.** John 10:27,28.

**The works that these people did, in the initial Scripture, were self initiated, and not as a result of revelation from the Lord. They were not done as a result of the leading of the Holy Spirit.** Romans 8:14. **They were not done in obedience to Jesus our Lord.** Matthew 7:23.

**Many times Jesus said, "I only say what My Father has told Me to say, and I only do what My Father has told Me to do."** John 4:34, John 5:19, John 5:30, John 6:38, John 8:26,28,38, John 12:49, John 14:10.

Jesus did not speak or act on His own authority.

Jesus did not speak or act independently of the Father.

**Jesus lived in relationship with the Father, as He expects us to live in relationship with Him.** John 20:21.

Jesus lived in relationship with the Father, hearing what the Father was saying, and seeing what the Father was doing. In this way Jesus was a perfect reflection of the Father Heart of God, in His words and in His actions.

**This is the way Jesus expects us to live in relationship with Him: hearing His voice and doing His will.**

**Jesus expects us to live by hearing His voice and by seeing what He is doing.** Acts 22:14,15.

He expects us to say what he tells us to say and to do what he tells us to do.

**For this to be achieved, we must have a living relationship with Jesus, before we go out and "do His works and preach His Word and extend His Kingdom."**

**As we go through life, the peace of God in our hearts, is the general guide that we are walking in the way of the Lord.** Colossians 3:15. **This is the way the routine of life is pleasing to God. The anointing of the Holy Spirit abides in us and is our Teacher and Guide.** 1John 2:27. **When we come to a new situation where we are not sure of the will of the Lord, it is time to look to the Lord for His guidance and follow what He says.** John 14:26, John 16:13, Proverbs 3:6, Psalms 32:8. Isaiah 50:4, Psalm 119:105. **The ways of the Lord are very different from ours.** Isaiah 55:9. **He can direct us in ways that we would never have thought of.**

**God has a plan and a purpose for each of our lives.** Ephesians 2:10, Jeremiah 29:11.

God has a work for each of us to accomplish. Acts 22:14,15, Acts 26:19.

God has an ordained work for each of us. John 15:16.

**It is only out of a relationship with the Lord, that we can find what His plan is for us to fulfil.**

As we seek the Lord each day by reading His Word and prayer, we will learn to hear His voice.

Step by step we will become aware of what He wants us to do.

**The Word says that we are to live by faith.** Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrew 10:38, Habakkuk 2:4.  
As we seek the Lord each day, through prayer, reading the Word of God, and meditating on the Scriptures, the Lord gives us the faith we need to live by.  
And faith is hearing the voice of the Lord, Romans 10:17,  
Believing in our heart what the Lord has said, Romans 10:9,10,  
Declaring what the Lord has said, 2Corinthians 4:13, Romans 10:9,  
Acting on the Word that the Lord has spoken, James 2:17, 20,26, as in Matthew 14:29.

**Our relationship with Jesus is called our “first love”.** Revelation 2:4.  
**We are to keep first things first, and our first love for Jesus is the first thing.**

**Lord what would you have me to do?** Acts 9:6, KJV.  
**Listen to Jesus, hear His voice, and do what He says.**  
**O Lord, help us all to live out of our relationship with you, and not do our own thing. Amen**