

An Inside-Out Faith

August 09, 2026

Mark 12:28-31; Matthew 6:33

**When God Is In First Place
He Transforms Every Part Of Your Life**

I. People tend to move from the outside in

- A. We focus on what we can see
- B. We try to change our behavior
- C. We attempt to manage our appearance
- D. We concentrate on looking transformed

II. What starts on the outside stays on the outside

- A. Outward improvement is not inward transformation
- B. Better behavior cannot create a surrendered heart
- C. Religious activity can conceal divided allegiance
- D. God is not interested in making an unchanged life look better

III. The foremost commandment

- A. Foremost means first
 - 1. First in priority
 - 2. First in preeminence
 - 3. First in precedence

IV. Jesus begins beneath the surface

- A. The Lord is God
- B. The Lord is One
- C. Allegiance must be undivided
- D. Jesus calls us to love God with the whole person
 - 1. With all your heart
 - a. Passions
 - b. Desires
 - 2. With all your soul
 - a. Consciousness
 - b. Will
 - 3. With all your mind
 - a. Thoughts
 - b. Thinking
 - 4. With all your strength
 - a. Physical service
 - b. Emotional fidelity
 - 5. The emphasis is not on the areas of your life
 - 6. The repeated word is *all*

V. Whatever comes first orders everything else

- A. "Seek first the Kingdom of God"
- B. Direction determines your destination
 - 1. Identify your goals
 - 2. Know your desired outcomes
 - 3. What is your calling?
- C. Tempting strategies that lead to failure
 - 1. Wishful thinking doesn't work
 - 2. Hoping for change
 - 3. Manifesting doesn't produce transformation
 - 4. Circumstances don't change because of desire

VI. What rules within you reveals itself through you

- A. Cognition
- B. Confidence
- C. Contentment
- D. Character

VII. A simple three question exam

- A. What currently holds first place within me?
 - 1. What receives my strongest affection?
 - 2. What occupies my thoughts?
 - 3. What am I most afraid of losing?
 - 4. What do I believe I must have to be satisfied?
 - 5. What most consistently determines my decisions?
- B. What does the order of my life reveal?
 - 1. What do I seek first?
 - 2. What receives the best of my time?
 - 3. What governs my relationships?
 - 4. What shapes my response to uncertainty?
 - 5. Where am I resisting God's rule?
- C. What is becoming visible through me?
 - 1. Does my family experience the love of Christ through me?
 - 2. Do difficult people experience grace from me?
 - 3. Is my faith producing generosity, patience, forgiveness, & compassion?
 - 4. If someone observed my life, what would they conclude holds first place?

VIII. The second (foremost commandment) is like the first

- A. Who is your neighbor?
- B. How do we love ourselves?

- 1. Notice our own needs
- 2. Respond to our own pain
- 3. Protect ourselves from harm
- 4. Provide ourselves with food, rest, & care
- 5. Seek what we believe is best for ourselves

C. Called to have that same mind toward others

IX. When God has all of you, His love fills you

- A. A heart of compassion for the lost & hurting
- B. A soul washed pure by the blood of Christ
- C. A mind set on righteousness
- D. The strength to love your neighbor

The Fruit Of Your Life Reveals The Allegiance Of Your Heart

**To Have The Beautiful Mind Of Christ, He Must Be The Lord
Of Your Heart, Soul, Mind, & Strength**

Your Transformation Begins From The Inside Out

