

# Priorities

## The Story of Mary and Martha

In Luke 10, Jesus steps into the home of two sisters. Martha scurries, serving with urgency. Mary rests at His feet, drinking in every word. Martha grows irritated: *“Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”*

Jesus answers with love but with clarity: *“Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”* (Luke 10:41–42).

The Holy Spirit preserved this story because it reveals the true priority of heaven. The better portion is not performance, not busyness, not even ministry. The better portion is Jesus Himself. It is His presence.

## Two Powerful Truths

1. The better portion is relationship, not performance.  
Jesus Himself said only “one thing” is needed, and Mary chose it. Our greatest priority is to sit at His feet and receive His presence, not to measure ourselves by activity or busyness.
2. What we gain in His presence cannot be taken away.  
Jesus declared, *“It will not be taken away from her.”* Ministry opportunities come and go. Responsibilities shift. But intimacy with Jesus endures into eternity.

## Two Lies People Believe

1. “My value to God is in what I do for Him.”  
This is Martha’s trap—thinking service proves love. But the truth is, our value flows from being His child, not our performance.
2. “I don’t have time to sit at Jesus’ feet.”  
Many believe they’re too busy for intimacy with God, yet the only way to carry lasting fruit and peace is to abide in His presence. Without Him, even our best efforts become empty.

## God’s Design is Relationship

In the Garden of Eden, God’s first act with humanity was not assigning work, but walking with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. Fellowship preceded responsibility. Relationship before labor. Presence before mission. That is still His order.

The Spirit was poured out at Pentecost to restore what was lost. The violent wind, the tongues of fire, the heavenly languages—all of it was God declaring, *“I am with you, I am in you, and I will never leave you.”*

The purpose of Pentecost was not just power for ministry but intimacy for relationship. Out of relationship flows fruit. Remember the Pentecost is about the Holy Spirit now living in us in a powerful way.

John 15:4 — *“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”*

Fruit is not sweat and effort; fruit is the natural overflow of abiding. When you sit at His feet, when you lean into His presence, the Spirit Himself produces what you could never manufacture.

### **Three Powerful Truths**

1. The Spirit’s presence is God’s permanent dwelling in us.

Pentecost wasn’t just a moment in history; it was God’s declaration, *“I am with you.”* His presence is not seasonal or occasional — it’s continual.

2. Ministry flows best from communion, not pressure.

When we abide in Christ, ministry becomes overflow. We don’t minister out of emptiness or obligation, but out of the abundance of His life in us.

3. Intimacy with God restores what sin stole.

The Garden of Eden was fractured by separation, but at Pentecost the Spirit restored the nearness of God. What was lost in Eden — walking with Him in fellowship — is now restored through the Spirit living inside us.

### **Two Lies Some Christians Believe**

1. “The Holy Spirit is only about giving me power to serve.”

Many see Pentecost only as empowerment for ministry. But the deeper truth is that the Spirit was given to restore intimacy with God—power flows out of relationship.

2. “If I just work harder for God, I’ll be more fruitful.”

Striving without abiding leads to exhaustion and emptiness. True spiritual fruit is not manufactured by sweat; it’s the overflow of staying connected to the Vine.

## The First Commandment

Jesus was very clear about priorities: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”* (Matthew 22:37).

Love is not only obedience. Love involves emotion. It involves affection. It involves the Spirit awakening our hearts to encounter the beauty of God.

*“Taste and see that the Lord is good.”* (Psalm 34:8). The Spirit does not call us to a dry, detached faith. He gives us desire, hunger, longing, and joy. Mary’s place at Jesus’ feet wasn’t cold obedience—it was passionate love.

## Better is One Day

The Psalmist understood this priority when he declared, *“Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.”* (Psalm 84:10).

The presence of God is not an idea to be studied; it is a reality to be experienced. The Holy Spirit fills us, softens our hearts, and transforms entire atmospheres. The courts of the Lord are not distant—they are near, and they are the place we long for. If this feels beyond your grasp, pray. Ask God to open your heart and reveal the living reality of this verse.

## What Does Love Look Like?

Love looks like a smile in worship. Love looks like tears on the floor when His presence draws near. Love looks like whispered yeses when the Spirit nudges your heart. Love looks like hands raised not out of duty but out of delight.

Yes, Jesus said, *“If you love me, keep my commands.”* (John 14:15). But He also revealed that the Spirit would come as Comforter, Helper, Friend. Obedience without intimacy becomes dry law. Obedience born of encounter becomes joyful surrender.

## Choosing the Better Portion

Like Martha, we are all tempted to believe our service is the proof of our devotion. But Jesus said, *“Only one thing is needed.”* One thing. Relationship. Presence. Love.

The Church will always be busy. But busyness without presence is empty. The Spirit calls us back to the feet of Jesus, where every true assignment begins.

The priority is not the ministry. It is love. And from love comes the miracles, the fruit, the harvest. From love comes the courage to lay down everything else and choose Him.

### **Three Powerful Lies Some Christians Believe**

1. “My service is proof of my devotion.”  
Martha’s trap: thinking activity equals intimacy. But Jesus pointed out that Mary’s love was the better portion.
2. “Love for God means duty without emotion.”  
Some think Christian maturity is emotionless faith. The truth: the Spirit awakens our hearts with joy, tears, longing, and passion.
3. “God’s presence is distant and out of reach.”  
The lie says His courts are far away. The truth: through the Spirit, His presence is here and now, dwelling within and among us.

### **A Call to the Feet of Jesus**

Church culture often rewards those who behave like Martha, but heaven still celebrates Mary’s place.

So make it your life’s priority:

- To linger in His presence.
- To listen for His voice.
- To let the Spirit stir your heart with affection.
- To love Him first, above all things.
- To discover that one day with Jesus is better than a thousand elsewhere.