

Five Keys to Divine Increase - Key 1, Love God.

DAY:

Monday

TITLE:

The First and Greatest Thing

KEY VERSE:

Matthew 22:37-38 -- "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.'"

REFLECTION:

I want to start this week by asking you a simple but searching question -- is God truly first in your life? Not just in your words, but in your actual daily choices? Jesus didn't call loving God one good option among many. He called it the first and greatest commandment. Those two words carry enormous weight. First means before everything else. Greatest means nothing else comes close. I believe this is the foundational key to divine increase in your life this year. When everything you do flows out of a genuine, passionate love for God -- your giving, your serving, your working, your worshipping -- everything else begins to align. God isn't asking for your performance. He's asking for your heart. Let's begin this week by simply saying, "God, I want to love You more than anything else."

PRAYER:

Father, I want You to be first -- not just in theory but in every real decision I make today. Forgive me for the times I've pushed You to the edges of my life. Ignite in me a fresh, consuming love for You this week, in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Write the words "First and Greatest" somewhere visible -- your phone wallpaper, a sticky note on your mirror, or your journal -- as a reminder throughout the day that loving God comes before everything else.

DAY:

Tuesday

TITLE:

Set Your Mind Above

KEY VERSE:

Colossians 3:2 -- "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

REFLECTION:

I love how direct this verse is -- set your mind. That's a deliberate, intentional act. It means you have a choice in what you think about. Your thoughts don't just happen to you; you can take them captive and direct them toward God. I've said it before -- wherever your mind goes, that's where you eventually end up. Dark thoughts lead you into dark places. Heavenly thoughts lift you into a heavenly perspective. When you love God with all your mind, you're actively choosing to focus on His goodness, His promises, and His presence rather than your problems and pressures. This isn't denial -- it's faith. I'm not telling you your challenges aren't real. I'm

telling you your God is bigger than all of them. Start choosing intentionally what you dwell on, and watch how your whole outlook begins to shift toward increase and breakthrough.

PRAYER:

Lord, I choose today to set my mind on You and on the realities of heaven. When distracting or fearful thoughts try to take over, remind me that I have the authority to redirect my thinking toward You. Help me love You with every thought today, in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Each time a negative or anxious thought enters your mind today, pause, take a breath, and intentionally replace it with one specific truth about God's goodness -- speak it out loud if you can.

DAY:

Wednesday

TITLE:

Draw Near and He Will Draw Near

KEY VERSE:

James 4:8 -- "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

REFLECTION:

This verse is one of the most encouraging promises in all of Scripture, and I want you to really take it in today. God isn't distant. He isn't hard to find. He is actually moving toward you right now. But He responds to your movement in His direction. When you make the choice to draw near -- through prayer, through worship, through reading His Word, through simply acknowledging His presence in your day -- He closes the gap. He meets you where you are. Loving God isn't just a feeling you wait for; it's a pursuit you choose. And here's the beautiful thing: the more you pursue Him, the more you discover just how wonderful, how kind, how faithful He really is. That discovery deepens your love, and deeper love leads to greater increase in every area of your life. So take one step toward Him today.

PRAYER:

Father, I'm drawing near to You right now, even in the middle of an ordinary day. I don't need a perfect moment or the right words -- I just want more of You. Thank You for the promise that when I move toward You, You move toward me. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Set aside ten intentional minutes today -- no phone, no noise -- and simply sit in God's presence. You can pray, worship quietly, or just tell Him you love Him. Let it be about closeness, not a checklist.

DAY:

Thursday

TITLE:

Because He's Good

KEY VERSE:

Psalm 118:29 -- "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

REFLECTION:

Why should we love God? I asked myself that question while preparing this message, and the answer kept coming back to the same place -- because He is good. Not occasionally good. Not good when things go your way. Enduringly, unchangingly, relentlessly good. Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights, Scripture says. No sickness comes from heaven. No poverty comes from heaven. No depression comes from heaven. That's not His nature. His nature is goodness, mercy, and overwhelming love toward you. And I want to remind you today that the same God who holds the mountains in a scale and measures the heavens with the span of His hand -- that God knows your name, knows your need, and is actively working on your behalf. When you truly grasp the goodness of God, loving Him doesn't become an obligation anymore. It becomes the most natural response in the world.

PRAYER:

Lord, I thank You today because You are simply, undeniably good. Help me to see Your goodness clearly -- in the big miracles and in the quiet, ordinary moments of my day. Let gratitude and love for You rise up in me afresh. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Make a list of five specific ways God has been good to you -- not generic blessings, but personal, specific moments. Keep the list somewhere you'll see it, and let it fuel your love and worship today.

DAY:

Friday

TITLE:

Pedal to the Metal Love

KEY VERSE:

Mark 12:30 -- "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."

REFLECTION:

I told my congregation about riding in a Viper with 800 horsepower -- and when that thing launched, it was pedal to the metal. Nothing held back. That's exactly the picture God paints when He describes the love He's looking for from us. All your heart. All your soul. All your mind. All your strength. When you put those four words together -- all, all, all, all -- there's nothing left over. That's a consuming, wholehearted, radical love. And I believe this is the first key that unlocks everything God has for you in this season. Not a polite, distant respect for God, but an all-in, passionate pursuit of Him. As we close out this week, I want to challenge you to reflect on which of these four areas -- heart, soul, mind, or strength -- needs the most surrender right now. Bring that area to God today. He's not looking for perfection. He's looking for passion.

PRAYER:

Father, I want to love You with everything -- not halfway, not when it's convenient, but with every part of who I am. Show me where I've been holding back, and by Your grace, help me go all in this year. I love You, Lord. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Identify one specific area -- heart, soul, mind, or strength -- where your love for God has grown cold or distracted. Write a one-sentence commitment about how you will intentionally re-engage that area starting today, and share it with one trusted friend or your small group.