

**“...but lay up
for yourselves
treasures in
heaven”**

Matthew 6:20



Matthew 6:19-34



The Treasures of Sound Relationships

Highlights

1. **Prayer:** Relationship with God
2. **Fasting:** Relationship with myself
3. **Almsgiving:** Relationship with others



I. Prayer: Relationship with God (1)

- Prayer is the cornerstone of any sound relationship with God.
- It is the path to know, taste, love, trust, and submit to God.



I. Prayer: Relationship with God ⁽²⁾

- It is the difference between knowing about God and experiencing Him on a more personal and intimate level.



I. Prayer: Relationship with God ⁽³⁾

- The secret of the power of all the saints (the example of Pope Kirollos VI)
- Finding the Pearl of the great price and the transformation of the prayer room



II. Fasting: Relationship with myself ⁽¹⁾

- It is a relationship that is needed the most and neglected the most, unfortunately.
- How do I feel when I find myself alone?



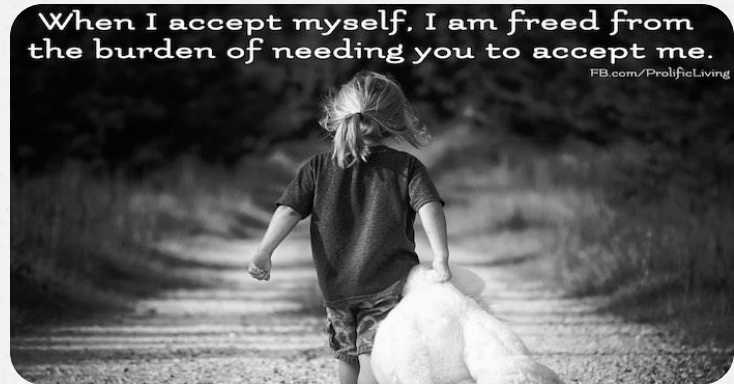
II. Fasting: Relationship with myself ⁽²⁾

- Fasting and the consecrated time are crucial in helping us to come to meet ourselves
- Fasting will aid us to undo the heavy burden and break the yokes of slavery



II. Fasting: Relationship with myself ⁽³⁾

- It's the way to know, examine, and eventually accept whom I am.
- Finding comfort and getting along with myself



III. Almsgiving: Relationship with others ⁽¹⁾

- Enjoying sound relationships with others is a treasure not only here but in heaven also:

“And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home”

Luke 16:9



III. Almsgiving: Relationship with others ⁽²⁾

- The concept of almsgiving is not limiting kindness to the needy and the poor
- Many who need our kindness are those very close to us



III. Almsgiving: Relationship with others ⁽³⁾

- The idea is to give, and the more we do, the more the treasure grows
- To give honor, respect, understanding, and submission at home



III. Almsgiving: Relationship with others (4)

- To give respect, accommodation, support, and acceptance to those around me in the church
- To look after the Lord's brothers and sisters



III. Almsgiving: Relationship with others ⁽⁵⁾

- To appreciate others, to spend, and be spent for their well-being, is to find the way to a precious treasure that will last forever.

