

The Principle of Firstfruit Living – God First Consciousness

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The principle of Firstfruit living is not a way to institute another offering in the church, but if taken as a principle for life, it is a way to invoke God's blessing on every area of life. Living with a God First Consciousness invokes His blessings! Firstfruits honors God by giving him the place of preeminence that He so greatly longs to have and consequently invokes the Firstfruit blessing on the giver. *To understand this, consider that giving is like A Seed.* If you sow a seed, a particular type of harvest is expected. Likewise, with the giving of various types of financial seeds, there are various types of returns promised in scripture. For example:

- When you make a vow and pay your vow, you can decree a thing and it will be established for you (Job 22:27-28).
- When you pay your tithes, the devourer is rebuked, the window of heaven is open to you and you become a delightsome land (Malachi 3:10-12).
- When you give to the poor or give alms, you lend to God and set yourself up to be repaid by Him (Proverbs 19:17).
- When you support the ministry of your man of God, you all your need is met (Philippians 4:14-19).
- As a result of giving firstfruit, you are promised increased and also joy!! (Proverbs 3:10 – wine = joy).

3 PRINCIPLES ABOUT FIRSTFRUITS

1. Firstfruit is the best offering out of all my increase.
2. Firstfruit is giving for support of the Kingdom.
3. Firstfruit is holy set aside giving to God.

Proverbs 3:9-10

⁹Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; ¹⁰So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Romans 11:16

¹¹For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.

I. WHAT IS THE FIRSTFRUIT OFFERING?

A. The firstfruit is not the tithe. There is a distinction between the two.

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Deuteronomy 12:6

⁶And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:

2 Chronicles 31:5

⁵And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.

Nehemiah 10:37

³⁷And that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.

B. The firstfruit is a discriminate offering of the best of the first of your annual increase signifying God's preeminence in your life and releasing the priest to pronounce the blessing on your house.

In the Old Testament when the first buds would come forth in a farmer's crop, he would go out into the field and mark those buds. When it was time to harvest the entire crop, the farmer would then go through and pick out all the buds that had come forth first (identified by his marking). He would then take the best part of these firstfruits to the temple to worship God. The priest would then take it and pronounce a blessing over him and his house.

Exodus 34:26a

^{26a}The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God.

There is no discrimination in the tithe. It is 10%. However, there is discretion on the part of the gatherer in the firstfruit, because this person has to be honest in his heart when he marks the firstfruit and when he sorts it out. There is no person sent to judge him to make sure he did right. It was all based on purpose of heart. The principle behind this is a strong intense worship to God as the source of all one's increase.

Leviticus 23:9-11, (NLT)

⁹Then the LORD told Moses ¹⁰to give these instructions to the Israelites: "When you arrive in the land I am giving you and you harvest your first crops, bring the priest some grain from the first portion of your grain harvest. ¹¹On the day after the Sabbath, the priest will lift it up before the LORD so it may be accepted on your behalf.

II. WHY DOES GOD ASK FOR A FIRSTFRUIT?

A. Behind the firstfruit principle is that God does not want to be second to anybody or anything. He ask for the first because he wants to be first. It is an attitude that God wants to incorporate in the heart of every believer that He has first place. In firstfruit, God is calling us to make a conscious decision that in every situation we will put Him first. This offering is more an expression of love, adoration and worship than any other!

First – Hebrew word (Rosh) meaning head, top, summit, upper part, chief, total, sum, height, front, beginning

First – (Webster) - preceding all others in time, order, or importance: having the highest or most prominent part

The firstfruit is used as a point of worship to God, willingly acknowledging Him as first. It is not a payoff. God already owns the tithe. Only those who place Him first are consistent in their walk with God. Are you ready to go to another level in your Christian experience? Then ask yourself this question: Can you pass the God first test? It is imperative that there is an attitude adjustment. Purpose of heart makes the decision that God is first.

When you honor God with the firstfruit, you will experience a level of prosperity that you can hardly contain. You will be bursting at the seams.

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Exodus 20:2-3

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³You shall have no other gods before Me.

Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Matthew 22:37-38

³⁷Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and great commandment.

You must have relative disregard for anyone and anything else in your life in comparison to regard for God. The firstfruit causes the giver to focus on God above all.

Luke 14:26, (AMP)

²⁶If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his [own] father and mother [in the sense of indifference to or relative disregard for them in comparison with his attitude toward God] and [likewise] his wife and children and brothers and sisters--[yes] and even his own life also--he cannot be My disciple.

Biblical Example:

Genesis 4:3-5

³And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

Genesis 4:3-5, MSG

Time passed. Cain brought an offering to GOD from the produce of his farm. Abel also brought an offering, but from the firstborn animals of his herd, **choice cuts of meat**. GOD liked Abel and his offering, but Cain and his offering didn't get his approval.

B. God wants to be first in your family

1 Corinthians 11:3

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Exodus 13:1-2

¹Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine.”

C. God wants to be first in your time

Exodus 40:1

¹Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

Leviticus 23:34-35

³⁴“Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. ³⁵On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it.

D. God wants to be first in your finances

Exodus 23:19a

The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

Exodus 34:26a

^{26a}The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God.

It is especially important to understand this because the firstfruit offering is only for those who are highly motivated in their giving to God through a love relationship with Him and for His purpose in the Earth. If you only give to get and be blessed, you may not understand why you should give firstfruits. After all the scripture promises that if you give, it will be given to you good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over (Luke 6:38). So the regular offering will bring you increase. Furthermore, the tithe, according to Malachi 3:10-12, will rebuke your devourer and open the window of heaven for you. Based upon this reasoning, some may be thinking that this (firstfruits) is just another way to get another offering. After all, you are already blessed and experiencing the favor of God! Firstfruit really is not about money at all! It is a demonstration, through the giving of money of a principle that characterizes the giver’s life – GOD FIRST!

The end result of my giving is so that good works may abound.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

⁶But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. ⁷Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

III. WHY SHOULD WE ACCEPT THE FIRSTFRUIT PRINCIPLE?

We should accept the principle of firstfruit offerings because it transcends dispensations and is pointed to scripturally before the Law, under the law and after the law.

- Genesis 4:1-4 The firstling or firstfruit before the law
- Exodus 34:26 It is a command from the Lord through Moses incorporated into the law.
- Romans 11:16 Though we see not a tithe or firstfruit given in the New Testament, we see the reference here after the law.

- Ezekiel 20:40 Bringing the firstfruit offering is part of the prophecy in the millennium reign of Christ.

IV. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF FIRSTFRUIT GIVING?

A. When the Firstfruit is offered, the blessing of God is invoked

When a decision is made and honored to love God with all your heart, soul and strength, it invokes his blessing!

Deuteronomy 11:10-15

¹⁰For the land which you go to possess *is* not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered *it* by foot, as a vegetable garden; ¹¹but the land which you cross over to possess *is* a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, ¹²a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God *are* always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year. ¹³‘And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹⁴then I will give *you* the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. ¹⁵And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.’

THE PROMISE OF RETURN ON FIRST FRUITS

1. The fullness of promise with the ability to save (Proverbs 3:9-10)
2. He will take away the desire of the enemy to steal from or hurt you and cast out nations before you (Exodus 34:24)
3. Enlarge your borders – land holdings and real estate investments (Exodus 34:24)
4. Drive out opposition to your increase. God will, “Make room for you at the top!” (Exodus 34:24)
5. Place the blessing you your household (Ezekiel 44:30)
6. Consecrate blessing on your income (Romans 11:16 – Firstfruit obligates God to bless the rest)

My offering causes supernatural supply for the Kingdom (2 Kings 4:42) – Attempting supernatural combat (It allows us to put a weapon (Word) in the hand of every believer and get the gospel to every nation).