

The Principle of First

INFO:

- This principle runs through scripture from Gen. to Rev.
- If God is first in your life, then everything will come into order.
- Would you rather go through troubles with everything in order or everything out of order?
 - **Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)**
33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

1. The firstborn **must be** sacrificed or redeemed.

a. **Exodus 13:1-2 (NKJV)**

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine."

b. **Exodus 13:12-13 (NKJV)**

12 that you shall set apart to the Lord all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the Lord's. 13 But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

- i. Note: Donkey represents unclean animal and lamb a clean animal. If it is clean and firstborn has to be sacrificed if it is unclean it must be redeemed.

c. Jesus – the clean had to be sacrificed so that the unclean could be redeemed – this speaks to the importance of the "First"

- i. Jesus is representative of the tithe. Tithe is the first 10 percent because it takes faith to give the first.

d. God said when your sheep has a lamb give me the first. He did not say after your sheep gives you 10 lambs then give me one of them.

- i. It takes faith to give the first one believing that the sheep will give more.

e. Concerning tithe: It is not the 10 percent that enacts the blessing, it is faith giving the tithe first that enacts the blessing.

f. God gave Jesus first, He did not wait to see if we cleaned up first He gave first. He gave Jesus in faith- we are to give our tithe in faith – not in obligation.

g. Consider when Joshua led children into the promised land and God instructed that they give all the silver and gold into the house of God.

- i. Why was it all instead of 10%? Because it was the first city they took so in faith they gave the spoils to the Lord knowing he would give them the rest.

2. The firstfruits **must be** offered:

a. **Proverbs 3:9-10 (NKJV)**

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

- i. Note- this is in Proverbs – not in the first 5 books of the "Law"

b. **Exodus 23:19a (NKJV)**

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

- i. Tithe always comes to the storehouse – you cannot divide it between places of worship, ministries etc.
 - ii. Bring it is – why bring and not give. Because you cannot give what does not belong to you – it belongs to God.
- c. According to scripture there is only two things you can do with tithe:
- i. Bring it in – it is consecrated
 - ii. Steal it- it is cursed
- d. It takes faith to believe that 90% blessed will go further than 100% cursed.
- e. Why did God accept Able’s offering and not Cain’s? because Able gave the first.
- i. **Genesis 4:3-5 (NKJV)**
3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell
 1. Look at Cain: First note “in the process of time” and” “an offering – not first fruit”
 2. Look at Able: He brought the first born.
- f. Tithing represents who is first in your life.
- g. As tithe, God does not accept the leftovers, the outcast, the unwanted etc.
- i. This is why God sent Jesus – to be the tithe that redeemed the outcast, the unwanted etc.

3. The Tithe **must be** first:

a. **Leviticus 27:30 (NKJV)**

30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s. It is holy to the Lord.

- i. Holy means “set apart”

b. This is not to be legalistic about this but for you to determine where is your heart.

c. **Exodus 13:14-15 (NKJV)**

14 So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ that you shall say to him, ‘By strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

4. **First-fruit Offerings each year**

- a. Three Biblical Feast Seasons
 - i. Passover
 - ii. Pentecost
 - iii. Tabernacles

- b. God's word tells us to honor the feast eternally and that we are not to come empty handed.
- c. Pentecost is coming up May 20th
- d. Be prepared to give a special first-fruit offering on this day.
- e. Allow the Holy Spirit to tell you what it is you need to give as a full first-fruit offering.