

THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST

The Blessed Life

[LOF1 Week11](#)

IF GOD IS FIRST IN YOUR LIFE, EVERYTHING WILL COME IN ORDER.

I'm not saying that you won't have troubles or struggles or problems...

- Jesus said in this world you'll have tribulations. (*John 16:33*)
- But would you rather go through tribulations with everything in order, or everything out of order?

If God is first, EVERYTHING will come in order in your life.

If He is not first..... then NOTHING will come in order in your life.

God has to be first for there to be an order in your life.

This is the Principle that runs through all Scriptures - from Genesis to Revelation.

EXODUS 13:1-2

CONSECRATE TO ME ALL THE FIRSTBORN, WHATEVER OPENS THE WOMB AMONG THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, BOTH OF MAN AND BEAST; IT IS MINE."

The FIRSTBORN - It is mine. It belongs to me. I'm the owner.

EXODUS 13:13

"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."

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."

1. THE FIRSTBORN MUST BE SACRIFICED OR REDEEMED.

THAT'S THE PRINCIPLE HERE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THAT IS REFERRING TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT GOES THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHICH TO DO --- WHICH TO SACRIFICE OR REDEEM ??

- HE GIVES 2 ANIMALS WHICH ARE EXEMPLARY OF CATEGORIES OF ANIMALS.
- DONKEY REPRESENTS UNCLEAN ANIMALS, THE LAMB REPRESENTS CLEAN ANIMALS.
- **CLEAN ANIMAL** - IT HAS **TO BE SACRIFICED**, THE FIRSTBORN.
- THE **UNCLEAN ANIMAL** - IT HAS **TO BE REDEEMED** WITH THE SACRIFICE OF THE CLEAN.

IF IT'S CLEAN AND ITS FIRSTBORN -- IT HAS TO BE SACRIFICED.
IF IT'S UNCLEAR, IT HAS TO BE REDEEMED WITH THE SACRIFICE OF THE CLEAN.

HOW IN THE WORLD IS THIS RELATED TO US TODAY?

LET ME ASK YOU 2 QUESTIONS

WERE YOU AND I SPIRITUALLY BORN CLEAN OR UNCLEAR?

- WHEN WE WERE BORN IN THE NATURAL.... OUR SPIRITUAL STATE BEFORE GOD, WERE WE BORN INTO THIS WORLD, CLEAN OR UNCLEAR?
- **UNCLEAR.**
- WE WERE ALL BORN IN SINS.

PARENTS: "DID YOU HAVE TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO BE BAD?"

- DID THAT COME NATURALLY FOR THEM?
- WE HAD TO TEACH THEM **TO BE GOOD.**
- BECAUSE WE'RE ALL BORN IN A **SINFUL NATURE.**
- THAT'S WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS.....
- SO WE WERE ALL BORN UNCLEAR.

WAS JESUS BORN UNCLEAR OR CLEAN? ---- **CLEAR.**

- THE CLEAR (JESUS) HAD TO BE SACRIFICED SO THAT THE UNCLEAR COULD BE REDEEMED.
- THAT'S WHAT WE JUST READ.
- THAT'S HOW IMPORTANT THIS PRINCIPLE IS.

WE'RE GOING TO SEE THAT THIS PRINCIPLE REFERS TO TITHING
BUT I WANT TO SAY SOME TO YOU THAT MAYBE YOU NEVER THOUGHT OF....

JESUS IS GOD'S TITHE.

BECAUSE YOU GIVE YOUR TITHE FIRST.

- YOU DON'T PAY YOUR BILLS AND THEN SEE IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH LEFTOVER TO TITHE.
- YOU GIVE YOUR TITHE FIRST.
- IT'S THE FIRST 10% -- NOT JUST ANY 10%
- **BECAUSE IT TAKES FAITH TO GIVE THE FIRST.**

GOD SAID WHEN YOUR SHEEP HAS A LAMB, GIVE ME THE FIRST ONE.

- IT TAKES FAITH TO GIVE THE FIRST ONE BEFORE YOU HAVE ANYMORE
- YOU DON'T KNOW IF THE SHEEP IS GOING TO PRODUCE ANYMORE. THAT TAKES FAITH.

GOD DIDN'T SAY.... "WAIT UNTIL YOUR SHEEP HAS 10 AND GIVE ME 1 OF THEM."

- AND YOU GIVE ME THE ONE THAT KEEPS EATING YOUR GARDEN THAT YOU DON'T LIKE.
- HE SAID YOU **GIVE ME THE FIRST ONE** BEFORE YOU HAVE ANY OTHERS.

**IT'S NOT THE 10% THAT ENACTS THE BLESSING.
IT'S FAITH THAT ENACTS THE BLESSING.**

ITS GIVING THE FIRST 10%

AND THE REASON I SAID JESUS IS GOD'S TITHE....

- GOD GAVE JESUS **FIRST**
- HE DIDN'T WAIT TO SEE IF WE WOULD CLEAN UP, OR STRAIGHTEN UP....
- TO GIVE HIS SON.
- GOD GAVE JESUS WHEN WE WERE MOCKING HIM, SPITTING ON HIM AND NAILING HIM TO THE CROSS.

ROMANS SAID IT THIS WAY...

- "WHILE WE WERE YET A SINNER....CHRIST DIED FOR US."
- "THAT GOD GAVE JESUS IN HOPE."

THE ROOT WORD IS FAITH.

IN FAITH WE GIVE OUR TITHE.

WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WENT INTO THE PROMISED LAND.....

GOD SAID..... "BRING ALL OF THE SILVER AND GOLD FROM JERICHO INTO THE HOUSE OF GOD." (ALWAYS WHERE THE TITHE GOES...)

- WHY DIDN'T HE SAY 10% OF JERICHO??
- BECAUSE JERICHO WAS THE FIRST CITY.
- HE SAID, BRING THE FIRST INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, AND THE REST ARE REDEEMED.... THEY'RE OUT FROM UNDER THE CURSE, THEY'RE BLESSED.

- THE FIRST PORTION IS THE REDEMPTIVE PORTION.
- WHEN YOU GIVE THE FIRST TO GOD.... THE REST ARE REDEEMED.

- DON'T GIVE THE FIRST PORTION TO THE MORTGAGE COMPANY.
- DON'T GIVE THE FIRST PORTION TO VISA AND MASTERCARD.
- BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO BLESS YOUR FINANCES.
- BUT GOD DOES.

THE FIRST PORTION / 10% GOES TO GOD.

2. THE FIRSTFRUITS MUST BE OFFERED.

PROVERBS 3:9-10

"HONOUR THE LORD WITH YOUR POSSESSIONS, AND WITH THE **FIRSTFRUITS** OF ALL YOUR INCREASE; SO YOUR BARNES WILL BE FILLED WITH PLENTY, AND YOUR VATS WILL OVERFLOW WITH NEW WINE."

THIS IS IN PROVERBS, THIS IS NOT UNDER THE LAW - THIS IS HUNDREDS OF YEARS AFTER THE LAW.

THIS IS A PRINCIPLE THAT RUNS THROUGH ALL SCRIPTURES.

EXODUS 23:19

THE FIRST OF THE FIRSTFRUITS OF YOUR LAND YOU SHALL BRING INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD YOUR GOD."

MALACHI "**BRING THE TITHES INTO THE STOREHOUSE**" - THE TITHES ALWAYS GO TO THE CHURCH... YOU CAN'T DIVIDE, DESIGNATE THEM SOMEWHERE ELSE.

"BRING" - THE REASON GOD USES THE WRONG "BRING", INSTEAD OF THE WORD "GIVE" WHEN IT COMES TO TITHING....

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GIVE WHAT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU.

YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES WHEN IT COMES TO TITHING ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURES. YOU CAN **BRING IT, OR YOU CAN **STEAL** IT.**

WHEN GOD SAID TO ISRAEL "**BRING ALL THE SILVER AND GOLD FROM JERICHO...**"

BUT ACHAN KEPT SOME...

AND OF COURSE, ON THE NEXT CITY THEY LOST THE BATTLE...UNTIL THEY BROUGHT IT TO THE HOUSE OF GOD.

BUT HERE'S THE POINT:

- JOSHUA 6 - GOD CALLS THE TITHE "**CONSECRATED**" OR SET APART (SAME THING HE CALLED THE FIRSTBORN).
- JOSHUA 7 - AFTER ACHAN TOOK IT, HE SAID ISRAEL HAS **STOLEN** FROM ME, AND THEY'RE **CURSED**.

IT'S CONSECRATED WHEN YOU BRING IT TO THE HOUSE OF GOD. IT'S CURSED IF YOU LEAVE IT IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT.

WHY WOULD YOU WANT SOMETHING CURSE IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT?

WHY WOULDN'T YOU WANT YOUR BANK ACCOUNT BLESSED?

- IT TAKES FAITH TO GIVE HE FIRST
- IT TAKES FAITH TO BELIEVE THAT 90% REDEEMED AND BLESSED, WILL GO FURTHER THAN 100% CURSED.

WHEN WE HEAR CAIN AND ABEL'S STORY....

WHY DID GOD ACCEPT ABEL'S OFFERING AND HE DID NOT ACCEPT CAIN'S??

GENESIS 4:3-5

AND IN THE **PROCESS OF TIME IT CAME TO PASS THAT CAIN BROUGHT **AN OFFERING OF THE FRUIT OF THE GROUND TO THE LORD.****

IT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAID HE BROUGHT THE FIRST FRUIT HE JUST BROUGHT AN OFFERING, IN THE PROCESS OF TIME.

V4 ABEL ALSO BROUGHT OF THE **FIRSTBORN** OF HIS FLOCK AND OF THEIR FAT. AND THE LORD RESPECTED ABEL AND HIS OFFERING.

THE PERSON RECEIVED TOO, NOT JUST THE OFFERING.

V5 BUT HE DID NOT RESPECT CAIN AND HIS OFFERING.

- CAIN WAS A FARMER, HE DIDN'T BRING FIRSTFRUIT.
- ABEL WAS A RANCHER, HE BROUGHT FIRSTBORN.
- GOD SAID I WILL ACCEPT THAT....I WON'T ACCEPT THAT.

ITS NOT JUST THAT GOD WOULDN'T ACCEPT THAT.

- BUT ALSO **GOD COULDN'T ACCEPT THAT.**
- THERE ARE SOME THINGS GOD CANNOT DO.
- **GOD CAN'T ACT OUTSIDE OF HIMSELF... OUTSIDE OF HIS CHARACTER.**

ONE OF THE GREATEST STUDY YOU COULD EVER DO, IS TO KNOW THE [ATTRIBUTES OF GOD.](#)

TO KNOW WHO GOD REALLY IS.

LET ME TELL YOU A FEW THINGS THAT GOD CANNOT DO:

1. **GOD CAN'T CHANGE - IMMUTABILITY**

- THE REASON THAT GOD CAN'T CHANGE IS BECAUSE IF HE COULD CHANGE, THAT MEANS HE COULD GET BETTER
- AND HE CAN'T GET BETTER BECAUSE HE'S PERFECT.

2. **GOD CAN'T THINK THE WAY WE THINK.**

- BECAUSE OF THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD.
- OMNI (ALL), SCIENCE (KNOWLEDGE) = GOD HAS ALL KNOWLEDGE
- THE REASON GOD CAN'T THINK THE WAY WE THINK,
- IS BECAUSE WE THINK IN ORDER TO FIGURE THINGS OUT.
- GOD'S NOT TRYING TO FIGURE ANYTHING OUT.
- NOTHING HAS EVER OCCURRED TO GOD: "I JUST THOUGHT OF THIS..."
- BECAUSE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING AT THE SAME TIME.
- GOD HAS NEVER HEARD SOMETHING AND SAID..."**OH MY SELF....**"
- ISAIAH: "**MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS...**"
- "**AS THE HEAVENS ARE ABOVE THE EARTH, MY THOUGHTS ARE HIGHER THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.**"

3. **GOD CAN'T BE SECOND.**

- THE PRE-IMMINENCE OF GOD.
- HE'S NOT ONLY FIRST OF ALL...HE'S BEFORE ALL.
- HE'S HIGHER THAN ALL, HE'S ABOVE ALL, HES FIRST AND HE'S BEFORE ALL.

- GOD IS FIRST.
- WE TALK ABOUT WE NEED TO PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE.
- WE DO NEED TO PUT GOD FIRST IN LIFE.
- BUT EVEN IF GOD'S NOT FIRST IN YOUR LIFE....HE IS STILL FIRST!
- YOU DID NOT REARRANGE HIS ORDER IN THE UNIVERSE.
- HE'S STILL PREIMMIENENT
- GOD CAN NEVER BE SECOND.
- THE REASON GOD CANNOT ACCEPT CAIN'S OFFERING...
- GOD IS ALWAYS FIRST, BUT CAIN DID NOT BRING A FIRST OFFERING.
- I CAN'T ACCEPT A SECOND PLACE OFFERING.

WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT THAT WHEN IT COMES TO TITHE

JESUS IS GOD'S TITHE.

LAST WEEK: GIVING TO THE BRIDE OF CHRIST --- TITHING IS MORE PERSONAL TO JESUS THAN WE THINK.

IF JESUS IS GOD'S TITHE --- TITHING MIGHT BE MORE PERSONAL TO THE FATHER ALSO THAN WHAT WE THINK.

IT REPRESENTS WHO IS FIRST IN YOUR LIFE.

THE BEST INDICATION OF "WHO'S FIRST IN OUR LIFE" IS OUR BANK ACCOUNT, DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WE SAY.

- ASOS? EBAY? GUMTREE?

3. THE TITHE MUST BE FIRST

LEVITICUS 27:30

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."

THAT'S WHY IT HAS TO BE SET APART TO THE LORD.

IT HAS TO BE FIRST IS BECAUSE GOD IS FIRST, AND HE OWNS IT.

IF WE'RE GOING TO RETURN IT....WE HAVE TO RETURN IT FIRST.

MATHS ILLUSTRATION

- 25% OFF MEANS IT'S A GOOD DEAL.
- 50% OFF MEANS ITS FREE. BOGOF
- 75% OFF MEANS YOU'RE MAKING MONEY
- "I SAVED US MONEY TODAY...." BUT HOW COME WE LOSS?

A LANDSCAPER.

ADD SOME TREES, AND PLANTS, FLOWERS.....

THIS IS HOW MUCH MATERIALS -- LABOUR -- PROFIT WILL BE \$1,000

THE TITHE IS ON THE PROFIT.

NOT ON ALL OF THIS (ON THE PERSONAL INCREASE, PERSONAL INCOME)

\$1,000 BILLS PAID ---- 10X \$100 BILLS.

TITHE \$100

WHICH IS THE TITHE? THE FIRST ONE THAT LEAVES YOUR HAND.

IF YOU GO HOME -- LETS PAY THE MORTGAGE, CAR, BILLS AND CLOTHES

AND HERE'S GOD'S PART

THAT'S NOT GOD'S PART -- YOU GAVE IT TO THE MORTGAGE COMPANY.

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT A PEOPLE DO

THEY SET ASIDE FOR THIS AND THAT....

AND ONLY GIVE THE LEFTOVER FOR GOD.

GOD WOULD NOT ACCEPT IT ANYWAY - **OUR GOD DOES NOT ACCEPT LEFTOVERS.**

MALACHI **"YOU BRING ME THE BLIND, THE LAME ANIMALS AND I DO NOT ACCEPT THEM."**

I ACCEPT THE FIRST.

GET PAID ON THE 15TH OR 30TH. DIRECT DEPOSIT.

GO ONLINE AND SEND THE TITHES

GOD'S NOT LEGALISTIC.

IT'S THE PRINCIPLE. WHERE'S YOUR HEART?

EXODUS 13:14-15

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.

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.

YOUR SON ONE DAY WILL ASK YOU....

WHY ARE YOU KILLING THIS ANIMALS?

LET'S BRING THIS UP TO MODERN DAY....

THE SON GOES AWAY TO COLLEGE, HE GETS HIS DEGREE.

HE COMES BACK, DAD SAYS "WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE OVER THE BOOKS"

"SIT DOWN DAD...YOU ASK ME TO TAKE OVER THE BOOKS AND BUSINESS.

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.

WE ALL HAVE BLINDSPOTS, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU'VE BEEN DOING THIS.

EVERYTIME OUR ANIMALS HAVE A FIRSTBORN, YOU KILLED IT. YOU KILLED 72 ANIMALS LAST YEAR.

WE ARE IN THE RANCHING BUSINESS.

THIS IS CUTTING OUR PROFITS. WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT???"

ONE DAY YOUR SON IS GOING TO ASK YOU.
I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT OUR FAMILY THAT YOU DON'T KNOW
WE WEREN'T ALWAYS IN THE BUSINESS
WE DID NOT OWN ANIMALS, OR LAND.
WE WERE SLAVES, WE WERE IN BONDAGE.
BUT GOD.... WITH HIS MIGHTY HAND REDEEMED US.
AND GAVE US EVERYTHING WE HAVE NOW.
THEREFORE WE GLADLY GIVE TO GOD THE FIRSTBORN, OF ALL OUR INCREASE.

THIS WAS WRITTEN 4,000 YEARS AGO
AND THIS PRINCIPLE HAPPENED TO US.
"THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY." WHY ARE YOU GIVING SO MUCH TO THE CHURCH?
\$50,221.21 --THIS YEAR TO DATE TITHES AND OFFERINGS.

WE DID NOT HAVE ALL OF THIS BEFORE.
WE WERE BADDD BEFORE.....
BUT GOD..... WITH A MIGHTY HAND REDEEMED US.
AND GAVE US EVERYTHING WE HAVE NOW.
THEREFORE I GLADLY GIVE TO GOD THE FIRST OF ALL MY INCREASE.

THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST.
IS GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE??

Questions:

- **The principle of first is giving to God before we see if we're going to have enough. What are some things in your life that might conflict with the principle of first?**
- **What types of fears or concerns, if any, do you wrestle with most when thinking about the principle of first?**
- **What does your bank account say about who or what is first in your life?**
- **Are you bringing to God all of the tithe, which belongs to Him? Or are you stealing it? It's blessed when you bring it to God! It's cursed when you leave it in your bank account.**