

# First Fruits – Super Seeds

## I. God is FOR you!

### A. He Delights in Your Success

Ps 35:27 NKJ Let them shout for joy and be glad,  
Who favor my righteous cause;  
And let them say *continually*,  
“Let the LORD be magnified, (exalted, made huge)  
Who has **pleasure**<sup>1</sup> in the **prosperity**<sup>2</sup> of His servant.”

### B. He Plans for Your Abundance

Jer 29:11 NIV For I know the **plans I have for you**,” declares the LORD, “plans to **prosper (SHALOM)** you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

3 John 2 NAS Beloved, I pray that in **all respects you may prosper** and be in good health, just as **your soul prospers**. [slide 1]

Prosper — Go in a good way

It’s a **wholesome way of thinking, feeling, deciding** about life, health, money, ... It reflects **Who** He Is and **How** He Is.

## II. 7 First Fruits Principles – (**Tithe** *after* the Harvest)

1. Given at the Beginning – Through firstfruits we **sanctify our whole life and all we love**. [slide 2]

Rom 11:16 NIV If the part of the dough offered as **firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy**; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

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<sup>1</sup> or delights in, desires, bends toward

<sup>2</sup> Heb. SHALOM - completeness, soundness

2. It's a **Pattern not Law** - We honor the Lord with the First and the Best — and He honors us [slide 2]

Heb 11:4 Abel

Acts 10:1 At Caesarea ... **Cornelius**, a **centurion** of what was known as the Italian Cohort, **2** a **devout ... feared God ...**, **gave** alms **generously...**, and **prayed continually** to God. ... **4 ...**" And he said to him, "**Your prayers and your alms** have **ascended as a memorial before God.** [slide 3]

3. **Generosity Indicates Grace and Love at Work** [slide 4]

2 Cor 8:7 NIV But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — **see that you also excel in this grace of giving.**

*Grace flows from Joy*

*Do you want this GRACE of GIVING?*

8 I am not commanding you, but I want to **test the sincerity of your love** by comparing it with the earnestness of others.

**God isn't after our money, he's after our hearts.** Giving will change your heart.

**Our Treasure locates our Hearts**

Matt. 6:21 For where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.

If you buy a boat, you will be out in the driveway. Check on investments.

**Your heart follows your treasure.**

This is really important! There are about **500 verses** concerning **prayer**, about the same on **faith**.

## 2000 verses dealing with **money** and **possessions**.

Your finances tell a story of where your heart is going!

### 4. We Give **According to What We Have**. We give part of ourselves— *our offerings take us beyond our present circumstances*. **FEAR NOT!** [slide 4]

2 Cor 8:12 NIV For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to **what one has**, not according to **what he does not have**.

Sometimes we think we have nothing, but we actually do. AND Our last can be a **new FIRST**

**Elijah & the Widow** 1 Kgs 17:12 ... I do not have bread

**Elisha & the Widow**

Sometimes we aren't aware of the potential to INCREASE

2 Kgs 4:1 ... **“Your servant my husband is dead, ... the creditor has come..”** 2 And Elisha said to her, **“What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?”** And she said, ... **nothing ... except a jar of oil.”** [slide 6]

3 Then he said, **“Go outside**, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and **not too few**. 4 Then **go in** and **shut the door** behind yourself and your sons and **pour into all** these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside.” 5 So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And **as she poured they brought the vessels** to her. 6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is **not another.**” Then the **oil stopped** flowing. 7 She came and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest.”

## 5. Giving is **Analogous to Planting Seeds** [slide 7]

2 Cor 9:6 The point is this: Whoever **sows**... bountifully 7 Each one must **give** what he has decided in his heart to **give**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [slide 8]

PT Let giving flow from your heart, not from a sense of religious duty. Let it spring up freely from the joy of giving—all because God loves hilarious generosity!

### **The seed we sow connects our lives to the soil of His Great and Precious Promises**

SEED - embryonic information capsule, **carrying** all the **instructions needed for increase**. A seed alive is packed with limitless potential.

Seeds are God's "**future containers**" with a blueprint for the future. Apple seed -- not just an apple, but a tree that gives for years and contains future generations of trees!

a. **Our children are seeds.** Gen 3:15

b. **Words are Seeds,** containing a potential future. **Every word contains in a future reality in an immature form:**

Luke 8:11 NKJ "... ***The seed is the word of God.***

c. **Offerings are Seeds** Every offering contains in a future reality in an immature form.

**The seed we sow connects our lives to the soil of God's love.**

The life in the seed can grow and capture the power of the Sun, transforming dirt and water into food, into clothing, into housing, into fuel!

**SLIDE 9 - Planting for the Future**

**SLIDE 10 & 11 - Small Seed, Big Structure 3000 — Time of David**

**SLIDE 12 - Instructions for the future      3500 — Time of Moses  
Generation After Generation.**

**6. Receiving is PROPORTIONAL.**

**Luke 6:38 NKJ** Give, and it will be given to you:... good...pressed, shaken, running over... put into your lap. For with the **same measure** that you use, it will be **measured back** to you."

Teaspoon... 100    Wheelbarrow...    10 Ton Truck ...

If you give, you will **always get back more.**

Apple seed → apple tree with multiplied apples and FUTURE trees!

This is the **BENEFIT** of giving, not the **MOTIVE**. That easily turns into greed. We don't give to GET. That's greed.

We give just to GIVE. That's the motive. The benefit is, we will get back.

**7. Our Giving Releases God's Creative Ability**

**2 Cor 9:8 NKJ** And **God is able** to make **all grace abound toward you**, that **you**, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance **for every good work.**

**Don't let what you don't have overrule what you do have!**

**OUR TESTIMONY — 1977 starving ... increased our giving... change began to overtake us. By 1984 built a house w/o debt**

Moving into the realm of OFFERINGS. **1977** 26 years old.  
Anne pregnant. No money. Bicycle to work. No food.  
Read a book, **Your Money Matters.**

The real power in offerings. Increased from 12% to 15%, began budgeting. Within a year, down payment on ugly fixer up-

per. Sold it 4 years later, built a house CASH. Late model used car given to us. Many other blessings. 4 years later sold it and came to Pennsylvania.

**Be thankful and begin to joyfully use what you do have!**

**Partner with God - He's rejoicing over you and will renew you with His affection**

#### **IV. 4 Keys to First Fruits:**

1. **Cyclical** —Annual basis or at the beginning of a new endeavor.
2. **In Faith** –
  - a) **Comfort** – you just do it, in the budget, etc.
  - b) **Faith** – a stretch to that which is beyond our ability. We increase our “measure”
  - c) **Presumption**— trying to manipulate God
3. **Sacrificial** – if it doesn't move you, it probably won't move God.

2 Sam 24:24 ...I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen...

You can **deeply move** the Creator!

Gen 22:16 NKJ and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, **because you have done this thing**, and have not withheld ..., your only son— 17 **blessing** I will **bless** you, and **multiplying** I will **multiply** your descendants ...stars... sand; and your descendants shall **possess the gate** of their enemies. 18 **In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because **you** have **obeyed** My **voice**.”

4. **Focused** — create a list of the areas you are sowing in for breakthrough.
  - a. Reflects the godly passions of your heart
  - b. Based on God's Word.
  - c. **Pray, Believe, Decree, Stand. You will reap if you don't faint. You have seed in the ground!**
  - d. This is a time to sow, to **consecrate the dreams** for our lives and the promises of God we hold in our hearts.

## V. Instructions for First Fruits Offering

1. Pray for God's Direction (desire discipline delight)  
**Pray for hearing hearts.**
2. Have a Target, or Ask God for One (Gates held by the enemy)
3. Set an amount, or ask for one.
4. Write a check, use Push Pay, Credit Card or make a pledge (next two months)  
**No Fear — Refunds for 2 weeks!**
5. Bring it on First Fruits Sunday

**Phil 4:19 NKJ** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

There are **NO LIMITS** on the effects of even a **SMALL CHANGE** in our thinking and behavior. **What we contribute to life today can fill eternity.**