

## Opening the Heavens

2012 — Pursuit of His Presence; Open Heaven; House of Prayer for All Nations.

Weekly — Thunder Prayer, Friday Burn, More on the Way...  
50 nights from Resurrection Sunday to Pentecost...

Al McCausland Testimony

First Fruits Offering — **February 19**

### **I. Do not worry! In His Presence...**

Matthew 6:25-34 3x. Eat, drink, body, clothes, tomorrow.

Matt 6:33 NKJ But seek first the **kingdom** of God and His **righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you.

My goal is to transform the culture of Life Center into the culture of the Kingdom of God.

Rom 14:17 NIV ... **Righteousness, Peace & Joy** IN the Holy Spirit

### **II. Your Success is God's Delight In His Presence...**

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

Father in Heaven cares about you. Your success is His delight!

He is abundantly rich in every good thing. And he is a great Father, a wonderful dad who wants His kids to succeed in everything!

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,  
Who has **pleasure** in the **prosperity** of His servant."

This is a key. It gives God pleasure and brings delight to His heart when we do well.

3 **John 2 MSG** We're the best of friends, and I pray for good fortune in everything you do, and for your good health—**that your everyday affairs prosper**, as well as your soul!

I know this feeling from my own experience as a father. You know it from yours. God is a much more loving Father than I am.

### **III. Offerings Change Lives In His Presence...**

#### **A. Offerings Can Release Heaven Into Our Circumstance**

**Mal 3:10 NIV** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

When the FLOODGATES of Heaven are open over your life, Life is GOOD!

**Abraham & Isaac — Angel of the Lord, "Now I know..." "By Myself I have sworn...blessing I will bless you..."**

#### **Elijah & the Widow of Zarephath**

1 **Kings 17:7-16 NIV** Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him: 9 "Go at once to **Zarephath of Sidon**<sup>1</sup> and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" 11 As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

12 "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread — only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil

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<sup>1</sup> Sidon was the heartland of Baal worship

in a jug. **I am gathering a few sticks** to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it — and **die.**”

- 13 Elijah said to her, **“Don’t be afraid.** Go home and do as you have said. But **first** make a small cake of bread for me **from what you have** and bring it to me, **and then make something for yourself** and your son. 14 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will **not be used up** and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.’”
- 15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. **So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.** 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.
- 22 The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and **the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived.** 23 Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!”

### Cornelius —

Acts 10:1 NKJV 1 There was ..., a centurion ... 2 a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. 3 .... he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!”

- 4 And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “Your **prayers** and your **alms** have **come up for a memorial** before God.

## B. What You Have Has Unlimited Potential

### In His Presence...

Our Own Testimony — In our extremity, we increased our giving. Within a year, we bought our first house. 800 ft<sup>2</sup> Pumped untreated water out of a ditch. Within 5 years, moved into a house that had **no mortgage.** Late model car given to us.

AA Alan/ RW Shambach Story —

**DB Testimony — After hearing Ché in September, started tithing on his gross rather than his net... If more than 2 million in sales... The Widow's Mite...**

## **IV. Measures and Happy Hearts In His Presence...**

### **A. First Fruits and all Giving a Pattern not Legalism**

2 Cor 8:7 NIV ...also excel in this grace of giving.

### **B. Giving is Sowing**

2 Cor 9:6-7 NIV Remember this: Whoever **sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and whoever **sows** generously will also **reap** generously. <sup>7</sup> Each man should **give** what he has decided in his heart to **give**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

**The seed we sow connects our lives to the soil of God's love. You can't eat dirt, yet all our food comes from dirt. The life in the seed can grow and turn dirt into food, into clothing, into housing, into fuel!**

### **C. Determining the Measure of our Giving**

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

#### **Four Levels: a progression**

1. **Good Measure** acceptable, providing superior benefit, beautiful measurement or extent of activity This speaks of SUFFICIENCY.
2. **Pressed Down** compacted by intensity, more fits
3. **Shaken Together** movement creates capacity
4. **Running Over** the overflowing outpouring blessing

This is very personal. The same measure I use, is how it is measured back to me! An abundance for every good work.

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.

God works with what we have, not what we don't have.

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

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.

Be thankful and begin to use what you do have!

**D. Principle of first fruits: The tithe is what we give after the harvest, the first fruits is what we give before.**

**A Renewed Mind or a Poverty Spirit**

**God's goal** that our souls prosper. **In His Presence...**

This means our personalities are suited for the blessings of God. It's a wholesome way of thinking and a way of feeling about life, health, money, ...You name it! It is Kingdom Thinking! It reflects **Who** He Is and **How** He Is.

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**V. 5 Keys to first fruits:**

1. Annual basis or at the beginning of a new endeavor.
2. Sow In Faith — this is planting into the Kingdom Comfort— you just do it, it's in the budget, etc.

**Faith**— responding to that which is *beyond our ability*. We increase our "measure"

- Presumption**— disastrously trying to manipulate God
3. **Sacrificial** —if it doesn't move you, it probably won't move God.
  4. **Responding to Apostolic Stirring** — connection to the realm of Heaven. Acts 4
  5. **Focused** — create a list of the areas you are sowing in for breakthrough.
    - a) **There is a blessing for you and your family line in firstfruits.**
    - b) **List reflects the passion of your heart**
    - c) **Based on God's Word.**
    - d) **Pray, Believe, Decree, Stand. You will reap if you don't faint. You have seed in the ground!**
    - e) **This is a time to sow, to consecrate the dreams for our lives and the promises of God we hold in our hearts.**

**If you are not planting for your vision, it's not a vision but a fantasy.**

**Pray for hearing hearts. Hearts of vision & faith.**

**Grace of Giving**