

## First Fruits Sunday 2018

Video testimony.

How Pledges Work -- Next 2 Weeks, we will Receive & Pray

Target Harvests

Push Pay for Online Giving

### REVIEW:

#### I. Principles

Firstfruits at the Beginning (Tithe *after* the Harvest)

1. Firstfruits **sanctify** our whole life and all we love.

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.

**<outside the natural order, separate from ordinary>**

When something is sanctified to the Lord, He **treats it as His own**. It is kept, blessed, increased and enlarged to great capacities.

2. **Pattern not Legalism** - FF will **CAUSE** a blessing to **ABIDE**.

Simply, we honor the Lord with the **first** and the **best** and the whole or the rest is blessed. A Pattern reveals how the Lord works, it is a revelation of **His ways**.

Ezek 44:30 NKJ The best of all firstfruits of any kind...; you shall give..., **to cause a blessing\* to rest on your house.** (*to settle, find a resting place*) *\*imparted favor and protection*

3. **Planting Seeds for Future Harvest**

A seed is alive and packed with almost limitless potential.

Seeds are God's "future containers" containing specific blueprints for the future. They are embryonic information capsules.

2 Cor 9:6 ESV The point is this: Whoever **sows** sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows **bountifully\*** will also reap **bountifully.\*** 7 Each one must **give** as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.** \* **blessings**

## The seed we sow **connects our lives to the soil of God's Promises**

We can't eat the soil, yet all our food comes from it. The life in the seed can capture the **power** of the Sun, transforming dirt, water and air into food, into clothing, housing & fuel!

**Reverently, we hold up the beautiful seed we are about to sow in good ground. The kernels glow with an inner light, squirming in our hands as if they are charged with life, awakened, ready to transform into harvest!**

Inside an apple seed is not just an apple, but a tree that gives for years and year!

Abraham's seed was in Isaac — *Yitzhak* — miracle laughter.

## 4. GIVING ACTIVATES A **RECIPROCAL, ENERGIZED & PROPORTIONAL** DIVINE RESPONSE

Luke 6:38 NKJ 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."

## 5. Releases **OVERFLOW**

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.** \**autarkeia*

**God works with what we have! Don't let what you don't have **override** what you do have!** Mustard Seed

Be thankful and begin to use what you do have!

## II. 4 Keys to First Fruits:

1. Cyclical — Annual basis or at the beginning of a new endeavor.

2. In Faith —

Comfort— you just do it, in the budget, etc.

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

Presumption— trying to manipulate God

3. Sacrificial — if it doesn't move you, it probably won't move God.

4. Focused — List the “crops” you are planting for breakthrough.

Reflects the godly passions of your heart

Based on God's Word.

Pray, Believe, Decree, Stand.

You will reap if you don't faint. You have seed in the ground!

This is a time to sow, to consecrate the dreams for our lives and the promises of God we hold in our hearts.

## III. Conclusion

1. God's Direction (desire discipline delight)

2. Target a Harvest (Gates held by the enemy)

3. Set an amount, or ask for one.
4. Write a check or a pledge (next two months)

**No Fear — Refunds for 2 weeks!**

**Anne Joins Me on Stage — Declaration**

**Call the Servants Forward:**

**Bless the ONLINE givers:**

*"May the Lord give rain for your seed which you sow today. May  
He increase you many times over and bless you as He has  
promised."*

**Call People Forward**

**At Conclusion, STACK the BASKETS**

**Consecrate & Bless the Seed, and the People**

**Dismiss with Aaronic Blessing**