

# The Power of First Fruits (#1)

## I. Love & Generosity is the Foundation for Life

### A. Our Father Has Good Plans for Our Future

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.**

Prosper — Go well, by led 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.

*\*One of the harvests LM wrote down on her first fruits offering envelope: a "miraculous healing for her eyes." Soon after the offering, she received her healing.*

*\*W&T believed for a promotion and raise for W so T could be a stay-at-home mom. After they sowed their seed, W received a generous promotion and raise.*

### B. RELATIONSHIP is the Essence of Righteousness —

That which maintains wholeness. Good Relationship & Plans

Mt 6:25 NKJ "Therefore I say to you, **do not worry** about your **life**,...  
26 Look at the birds of the air, ...Are you not of more value than they? 28 Consider the lilies... 31 Therefore **do not worry**

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

**RIGHTEOUSNESS IS RELATIONAL** — Good Relationship & Plans

The **Essence of Sin is Separation** from our Good Father! **Taking ourselves TOO seriously.** Trying to make it on our own. The **Orphan.**

## II. First Fruits Given at the Beginning (Tithe after the Harvest) (#3)

### A. 7 Principles

1. Through First fruits we **sanctify** our whole life and all we love. **Supernatural & Extraordinary**

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.

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

Ezek 44:30 NKJ The best of all firstfruits of any kind, ... you shall give to the priest the first of your ground meal, **to cause a blessing to rest on your house.**

2. It's a **Pattern not Legalism** - We honor the King of Kings with the First and the Best — and He honors us (#4)

Isa 51.2 NKJ Look to Abraham your father,  
And to Sarah *who* bore you;  
For I called him **alone**,  
And **blessed** him and **increased** him."

A **Pattern** will appear multiple times in Scripture. It is a mystery, revealed by the Holy Spirit.

The **Pattern of Firstfruits** is that we honor the Lord with the first and the best and the whole or the rest is blessed.

Through Firstfruits we sanctify our whole life and all we love.  
Like a birthing of the promise...

### 3. Generosity Gives Evidence of Grace and Love (#5)

2 Cor 8:7 NIV But just as you excel in everything — *see that you also excel in 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.

### 4. We Give What We Have. In offerings give part of ourselves— *our offerings take us beyond our present circumstances.* (#6)

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**.

**Don't let what you DON'T HAVE keep you from giving!**

**Your last can be your first.** Widow and Elijah

1 Kings 17:13 NIV 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.**

*\*J&K had to wait a couple weeks before they were able to give their first fruits offering. They were eager to sow because their accountant had told them they wouldn't be receiving an IRS refund in 2014. About 2 weeks after they gave their first fruits offering, their bank notified them that the IRS gave them a \$7000 federal tax refund as well as a refund from their state tax return.*

### 5. Giving is Planting Seeds for Future Harvest (#7)

2 Cor 9:6 NIV Remember this: Whoever **sows...**<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** — and His Great and Precious Promises

A seed is an **information capsule, carrying all the instructions needed for increase and multiplication.** A seed is alive and contains God's blueprint for the future.

Apple seed -- not just an apple, but a tree that gives for years and years!

a. **Our children are seeds.** The *Creator Himself became a seed* and *as a seed broke the bondage of death* and *released* the power of an endless life!

Gen 21:12 But God said to Abraham, "...for in **Isaac** your seed shall be called. NKJ

The seed of **JOYFUL LAUGHTER** blesses all the nations on Earth (Ishmael was out of **logic** and **effort**. Isaac was **the impossible made possible**.)

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.**

When God gives you a word, He plants a seed for the future in your heart.

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

*\*One of the harvests LM wrote down on her first fruits offering envelope: a "miraculous healing for her eyes." Soon after the offering, she received her healing.*

6. Receiving is **PROPORTIONAL**. (#8)

**Luke 6:38 NKJ** Give, and it will be given to you:... For with the **same measure** that you use, it will be **measured back** to you."

When I use a teaspoon... 100 Wheelbarrow... 10 Ton Truck ...

ABRAHAM and ISAAC

**Gen 22:16 NKJ** and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, ... **17 blessing** I will bless you, and multiplying I will **multiply** your descendants ... **18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because you have obeyed My voice."

## 7. Our Giving Releases God's Creative Ability (#9)

**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! Don't let what you don't have overrule what you do have!** Mustard Seed has all the instructions.

Our sowing can **initiate the Miracle**

*\*KL began coming to Life Center last in January 2014. She travels over an hour from Maryland. She decided to give all the money in her savings account...down to the "bottom of the barrel." K believed for a breakthrough in her career, and one week after she gave her first fruits offering, she received a huge promotion and advancement*

**WHAT DO WE HAVE? SOMETIMES we have more than we THINK!**

**2K 4:2 NKJ** So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, **what do you have** in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has **nothing** in the house **but a jar of oil.**"

**3** Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few.

6 Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So **the oil ceased**.

She had **initiative** and **relationship**

*\*Our own story...*

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

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

1. **Cyclical** — Annual basis or at the beginning of a new endeavor. (#11)
2. **In Faith** — a stretch to that which is beyond our ability. We increase our "measure" (#12)
3. **Sacrificial** – a sacrifice is costly, if it doesn't move you, it probably won't move God. (#13)  
2 Sam 24:24 ESV "...I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing."
4. **Focused** — list the areas you are sowing in for **break-through**. destinies, careers, ministries (#14)
  - a. **Pray, Believe, Decree, Stand. You have seed in the ground!**
  - b. This is a time to sow, to **consecrate the dreams, and the promises** of God we hold in our hearts.

## **III. Instructions**

1. **Pray for God's Direction (desire discipline delight)**

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 or a pledge (next two months)**  
**No Fear — Refunds for 2 weeks!**

**Kingdom of God released. All the “added to” things.**

**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.**

**PRAYER FOR HEARING HEARTS!**