

The Seed and Infinity

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

First Fruits Offering — **Next Sunday February 19**

I. Your Success is God's Delight

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

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. He loves it when you do well.

II. Offerings Release Change — The Cross!

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 — Gen 22 “By Myself I have sworn...

Cornelius — Acts 10:4

B. What You Have Has Unlimited Potential —

Seeds in the Apple, Apples in the Seeds

Our Own Testimony — In our extremity, we increased our giving.
Within 5 years, moved into a house that had **no mortgage**. Late model car given to us.

AA Alan Story — RW Shambach — 26 miracles!

The Widow's Mite...

IV. Measures and Happy Hearts

A. First Fruits and all Giving a Pattern not Legalism

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 —...also excel in this **grace of giving**.

B. Giving is Planting for the Future

2 Cor 9:6-7 NIV Remember this: Whoever **sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and whoever **sows** generously will also **reap** generously. **7** 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!

Gn 22:18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed"

C. The Measure of 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.

With a Renewed Mind not a Poverty Spirit

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

God's purpose that our souls prosper.

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.

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 and faith.