

FF1: Grace and Freedom From Lack

Elhadj video

I. How a FF Offering Changed Our World

A. My struggle... “Just enough... Miracles, but...where is the More than Enough?). Aug 2007

B. His Response A WORD from the YHWH

“Why don't you receive a FF offering?”

Study and renewing my mind (capital campaign catastrophe)

Is. 48:15 NIV I, even I, have spoken; yes, I have called him. I will bring him, and he will **succeed in his mission**.

ESV I, even I, have spoken and called him; I have brought him, and he will **prosper in his way**.

He Spoke, Called, Brought.... Will Prosper, Succeed

B. Renewing my mind

[slide 1]

Rom 12.2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewal**¹ of your mind², that **by testing** you may discern what is the will of God, what is good & acceptable & perfect.

II. Divine Affections Renew Our Minds

A. He Delights in Your Transformation

Lk 12:32 Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

B. The Impact of a Renewed Mind

¹ *anakainosis*— return to the new, superior, unheard of

² *nous* - the organ of perception, sometimes translated “heart”

Ps 1:1 **Blessed** is the man who ... [*breaks free from the surrounding culture*] [slide 2]

2 but his **delight** is in the **law of the LORD**, and on his **law** he **meditates** day and night. (**torah** - direction, instruction, law)

3 He **is like a tree** (a complex living system joins earth and sky) planted by streams of water that yields its **fruit in its season**, and its **leaf** does not **wither**. In **all that he does**, he **prosper**s. [sl 3]

3 Jn 2 NAS Beloved, I pray that **in all respects** you may **prosper** and be in good health, just as **your soul prospers**. [slide 4]

Prosper — Go in a **good way**. It's a stewardship, a serving.

It's a **wholesome way of thinking, feeling, deciding** about life, health, money, ... It bears the IMAGE of our Father!

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

D. He Guides us into Restoration and Abundance

Righteousness is RELATIONSHIP - Father makes us SONS

Ps 23:1 The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want! [slide 5]

NIV84... I shall not be in want. NIV11... I lack nothing. NLB ... I have all that I need. **Yaweh rha'í lo ʿěśáhr** [slide 6]

יְהוָה רָעִי לֹא אֶחָסֵר:

DECLARATION – No LACK

He invites us follow, to **receive from** Him regarding the future of your life, your family, and the world you live in. [slide 7]

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

through the journey... green pastures, quiet waters,

- 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

***Into** restoration, righteousness, his NAME (fame)*

- 4 Even though I walk **through** the valley of the shadow of death, I will **fear no evil**, for **YOU** are **with** me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Console – *naham*, encourage – *parakaleo*)

[slide 8]

*Invitation to **partner** with him through the valley, **no fear** of evil, **HE becomes YOU with ME** rod and staff,*

- 5 **YOU** prepare a **table** before me in the presence of my enemies; you **anoint** my head with oil; my cup **overflows**.

TABLE, anointing, overflowing cup. (Abundance, saturation)

- 6 **Surely** goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. *[slide 9]*

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

1. (Given at the Beginning) – **Sanctifies** the Whole - our life and all we love. *[slide 10]*

Rom 11:16 NIV If the part of the dough offered as **firstfruits is holy**, then the whole batch is holy;

Holy - outside the natural, separate from the ordinary, pure

2. **A Pattern not Law** - Honor the Lord with the First and the Best — and He honors us *[slide 11]*

3. Generosity is an **Indicator of GRACE and Love** at Work *[sl 12]*

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.**

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 **transform** our hearts.

4. We Give According to What We Have. We give part of ourselves— **our offerings take us beyond our present circumstances.** **FEAR NOT!** [slide 13]

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**.

Elijah & the Widow

★ 1Kings 17:8 Then the **word of the LORD** came to him, 9 “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.”

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a **widow** was there **gathering sticks**. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” 11 And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “**Bring me a morsel of bread** in your hand.”

12 And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, **I have nothing baked**, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may **eat it and die.**”

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

13 And Elijah said to her, **“Do not fear**; go and do as you have said. But **first** make me **a little* cake of it** and bring it to me, and **afterward#** make something for yourself and your son. **[slide 14]**

**micro (LXX) #after incarnating the prophetic WORD*

14 For **thus says the LORD**, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be **spent,*** and the jug of **oil** shall not be **empty,# until** the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’”

** reach its full end # lack (Ps 23.1). [sl 15] unending > no lack*

15 And she went and did as Elijah said. And **she** and **he** and **her household** ate for many days. 16 The jar of flour was not **spent,*** neither did the jug of oil become **empty,# according to the word of the LORD** that he spoke by Elijah. **[slide 16]**



Sometimes we aren't aware of the capacity to INCREASE

Jesus & the Widow

Mark 12:41 And he sat down opposite the treasury and **watched** Many rich people put in large sums. **42** And a **poor widow ...**

5. In Giving We Plant **Seeds of Blessing.** **[slide 17]**

2 Cor 9:6 The point is this: **whoever sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and **whoever sows** bountifully **will also reap** bountifully.

The seed we sow roots our heart in the soil of God's love—

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

Seeds are God's **blueprint for the future.** Apple seed. Sequoia

a. Our children. The **Creator Himself became a seed** and **broke** the slavery of death and **released** the power of an endless life! **Gen. 3:15**

b. Our Words, containing a potential future. **Every word contains in a future reality in an immature form: CO CREATING**

Mark 4:11 ... "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God...
14 The sower sows the word. ...

c. Our Offerings Each contains a future reality in an immature form.

2 Cor 9:7 Each one must **give** as he has **decided in his heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **For the Joy!**

6. The Harvest is **PROPORTIONAL**. [slide 18]

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."

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

This is the **BENEFIT** of giving, not the **MOTIVE**.

★ 7. Our Partnership in Giving **Releases God's Creative Ability** [slide 19]

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.

TESTIMONY — 1977 starving ... increased our giving...change began to overtake us. 1984 house w/o debt...

Mustard Seed has all the instructions. A **sequoia** seed...

SOWING gives God an opportunity to work through us!

Partner with God - for a **PURPOSE**

STUCK? FRUSTRATED? Release God to Work!

IV. 4 Keys to First Fruits:

1. Cyclical —Annual basis
2. In Faith – a stretch to that which is beyond our ability.

3. Sacrificial – what moves you, often moves God.
4. Focused **TARGETED**— prioritize the areas you are sowing into for breakthrough.

V. Instructions for First Fruits Offering



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

Pray for hearing hearts.

!!! <NO FEAR GUARANTEE> !!!

2. Have a Target, or ask **what Gates are 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

There are **NO LIMITS** on the effects of a **SMALL CHANGE** in our thinking and behavior.

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

PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF HEARING

THE **HEARING OF FAITH**

UNFETTERED **HOPE!**

LOVE TO BE PERFECTED

THE **GRACE** OF GIVING

DECLARATION: GRACE and PEACE be MULTIPLIED to YOU

(2Pet. 1:2 May **grace** and **peace** be **multiplied** to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.)