

First Fruits and Freedom From Lack

I. How a FF Offering Changed Our World

A. My struggle, (which is sadly common)... “Just enough... where is the More than Enough?)

Miracles, but... where is the More than Enough?)

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

B. Transformation by Renewal of my mind

Rom 12.2 Be **transformed** by the **renewal** of your mind¹, that by **testing** you may discern... **[slide 1]**

C. Resulting in a Prosperous Soul Rooted in and Built upon God's Love

Ps 23:1 **NO LACK** ! YHWH rohi lo 'echsar (a covenantal ontology)

[slide 2]

Ps 1:1 **Blessed** is the man ...

[slide 3]

2 ... his **delight** is in the **law of the LORD**, ...

TRANSFORMATION —> A Fruitful Life

3 He is **like a tree** (a complex living system that joins earth and sky) planted by **streams** of water that yields its **fruit** (attractive, nutritious, and bearing seed) **in its season**, and its **leaf** does not **with-er**. In **all that he does**, he **prosper**s.

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

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

¹ *nous* - the organ of perception, sometimes translated “heart”

D. Invitation to collaborate with our Father

...To partner, to participate **with** Him regarding the future of your life, your family, and the world you live in.

*If we could instruct the future how to treat us, how we would want to live, what we would hope for our children, **would we do it?***

So we did it. Hundreds of testimonies. Seemingly impossible breakthroughs. Jobs, debts cancelled, properties, businesses, ministries, family restorations, marriages, babies, scholarships. On and on.

Sowing seeds for miracles. From this last year:

Video: [Ingrid Molinares](#) 3min.

This reminds me of **Elijah and the widow**... The benefits keep coming! Like a fruitful tree — season after season!!

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

1. (Given at the Beginning) – **Sanctifies** the Whole - our life and all we love. *[slide 4]*

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.

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

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

2. **A Pattern not Legalism - Cause a blessing** *[slide 5]*

Simply, we **honor** the Lord with the **first** and the **best** and the rest is blessed. **A Pattern** revealing **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* *[slide 6]*

3. Generosity – **Indicator of Grace and Love at Work** *[slide 7]*

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 **transforms** our hearts.

Matt. 6:21 For **where** your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.

4. We Give **According to What We Have.** We give part of ourselves— ***our offerings take us beyond our present circumstances.*** **FEAR NOT!** *[slide 8]*

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 9]***

***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)**

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 10]***

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 11]***

A seed is **alive** and contains **instructions for the future**; they are embryonic information capsules. The **living blueprint in the seed** captures the **power** of the Sun, transforming dirt, water & air into food, into clothing, housing & fuel!

2 Cor 9:6 The point is this: **whoever sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and **whoever sows** bountifully **will also reap bountifully.** **[slide 12]**

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

a. **Our children.** The **Creator Himself became a seed.** Gen. 3:15

b. **Our Words**, contain **future potential in an immature form**

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

c. **Our Offerings** planting for the **future** *[\[Slide 13\]](#)*
almost infinite increase *[\[slide 14\]](#)*

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!**

Gen 26:12 And **Isaac sowed** in that land and **reaped** in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord **blessed** him, 13 and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.

6. GENEROSITY Results an **Energized, Reciprocal & PRO-PORTIONAL** RESPONSE [\[slide 15\]](#)

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 **always get back more**.

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

7. Releases **OVERFLOW** of **God's Creative Ability** *[\[slide 16\]](#)*

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 — Jeff & Emily Update *[\[slide 17\]](#)*

Our story— 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 - He's **rejoicing** over you and will **renew** you with His affection — for a PURPOSE

STUCK? FRUSTRATED? Release God to Work!

IV. 4 Keys to First Fruits:

1. **Cyclical** — Annual basis or beginning of venture. **[slide 18]**
2. **In Faith** – a stretch to that which is beyond our ability. (Not comfort or presumption) **[slide 19]**
3. **Sacrificial** – what moves you, often moves God. **[slide 20]**
2 Sam 24:24 ...I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing."
4. **Focused** — prioritize the areas you are sowing into for breakthrough. **[slide 21]**
 - a. Reflects the godly passions of your heart
 - b. Based on God's Word.
 - c. Pray, Believe, Decree, Stand. You will reap if you don't faint. You have seed in the ground!
 - d. This is a time to sow, consecrating the dreams for our lives; the promises of God we treasure in our hearts.

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

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 a **SMALL CHANGE** in our thinking and behavior.

Jar not spent (continuous provision); Jug not empty (no lack)

Gen 22:16 NKJ and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, **because you have done this thing**, and have not withheld ..., your only son—

17 **blessing... bless you, multiplying... multiply;** your descendants ...stars... sand; and ... **possess the gate** of their enemies.

18 **In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because **you** have **obeyed** My **voice**.”