

WORSHIP

Suggested Worship Songs:

We Praise Your Name, Today is the Day, Because of Who You Are, Shout to the Lord

WELCOME

Checkbook Check. Review your checkbook or your expense journal, what does it say about your tithing?

WORD

Exodus 13:1-2, 12-13

Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine....that you shall set apart to the Lord all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the Lord's. But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem."

The Principle of First

When God is first in your life, everything will come in order. Because we still live in a fallen world, it doesn't mean though that you will not have a problem, but it means God will bless the rest when you bring Him your first. When God is not first in your life, everything will be out of order.

1. The Firstborn Must Be Sacrificed or Redeemed

Exodus 13:1-13 points to Jesus. The firstborn belongs to God. The clean must be sacrificed so that the unclean could be redeemed. Jesus is the firstborn, and He is the clean Lamb of God, who had to be sacrificed so that we who are born again but unclean could be redeemed.

This principle of firstborn represents our tithe, the first 10% of our fruits. When we return our tithe which belongs to God, the 90% of our fruits will be redeemed, it is blessed.

Tithing is a test on whether or not you will bring what belongs to God. You only have two choices with your tithe; either you bring it to God's house, or you steal it from God.

Tithing is not giving the last 10% but the first 10%. It takes faith to tithe. It doesn't take faith to pay the bills first then tithe after. But it does take faith to bring to God the first when you only have one and do not have any others. Without faith you cannot please God.

2. The Firstfruits Must Be Offered

Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. – Proverbs 3:9-10

Abel brought the first of his flock, and God accepted it. But Cain, in the process of time, brought a fruit of the ground, and God could not accept it (Genesis 4:3-5). God accepts only the firstfruits. God couldn't accept what is not first. He couldn't do what is outside His character. God must always be first. He cannot be second.

God said the tithe is His, therefore tithing is not giving but returning what belongs to God. You cannot give God something that belongs to Him. Tithing is returning, while giving is being over and above the tithe.

The tithe must be brought to the house of God, not to a university, or a missionary, or a ministry (Exodus 23:19). You also cannot designate the tithe with a portion for one purpose or for another. It is not yours; it belongs to God.

3. The Tithe Must Be First

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord. – Leviticus 27:30

Your tithe is the first 10 percent of your income, the first portion to leave your hand, your checkbook, or ATM. You may have allocated 10% of your income for your tithe, but if you paid for

WORD (cont'd)

the house first, you just gave away God's part to your house. Your house cannot bless the rest of your finances, can it?

When we bring the first 10%, God puts the blessing on the 90%, making it go further than the 100% would have gone.

All His

When you faithfully tithe, God will pour out His blessings to you. Then, your children, when they know enough and can count better, would not miss it to ask you why you must always give the growing first portion of your finances to the church. Consider it a magic moment with your children to let them know about you before your first ever tithe.

Discussion Questions:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **It is Mine.** What did God say to Moses about the firstborn? What should be done to the firstborn?
2. **Firstfruits.** After looking at your checkbook, where does God's part of your income go?
3. **Tithe is a Test.** God tests us with our tithe, whether or not we would bring it to Him. What would you start doing differently with the tithing of your time, talent, and other resources?

That if not for God, you wouldn't have what you have and become who you are today.

So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this' that you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.'

– Exodus 13:14

Just like the Israelites, we were in bondage of our past but God with His mighty hand delivered us and prospered us. Therefore, we can gladly give to God the firstfruit of our income.

When God said "It is Mine..." (Exodus 13:1-3), He seriously meant that the first belongs to Him. God is first and the first is His. When we know and acknowledge this, we would readily bring to Him the first of our firstfruits. After all, all are His.

WORKS

Ask Anything

God told Solomon, "Ask anything you want and I will give it to you". God only tells this to generous givers like Solomon because He could trust the givers with His riches.

If God would ask you today, "Ask anything you want and I will give it to you", what would you tell God? Why?

Weekly Prayer Points

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- New Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends