

Pray First

Part 1: In The Beginning...

- ✓ Prayer should be our first response not our last resort.

**Genesis 1:1 NIV** In the beginning God...

**Genesis 4:2-5 NIV** Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

- ✓ God must be first.

**Exodus 20:1-3 NIV** And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me.

- ✓ We put God first by giving Him the first of everything.

**Leviticus 27:30 NIV** A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.

**Proverbs 3:9 MSG** Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best.

- ✓ The first has the power to bless the rest.

**Proverbs 3:9-10 NIV** Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

**Matthew 6:33 NIV** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

1. Give God the first of my year with prayer and fasting.

**Acts 10:38 NIV** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

2. Give God the first of my month with tithes and offerings.

**Deuteronomy 14:23 TLB** The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

**Malachi 3:10-12 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 there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

3. Give God the first of my week with consistent church attendance and a true Sabbath.

**Luke 4:16 NIV** He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

4. Give God the first of my day with the Word, worship, and prayer.

**Mark 1:35 NIV** Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

**Psalm 5:3 NIV** In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

## **The First 15**

5 minutes in the Word

5 minutes in Worship

5 minutes in Prayer