

The Blessed Life

 "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is <u>blameless</u>." – Psalm 84:11 –tamim (Hebrew)– to walk according to God's ways.

The Blessed Life

- "Let the LORD be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of <u>His servant</u>." - Psalm 35:27
- "If you keep the commands of the LORD and walk in obedience ... the LORD will grant you abundant prosperity." – Deuteronomy 28:9-11

The Blessed Life

- Over 2,000 verses on Money
- "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." – Matthew 6:21
- God wants to prosper and bless you!

First Things First

Key Thought: Placing God first allows us to place our lives under God's blessing and favor.

3 Principles of Putting First Things First

- Principle of Sacrifice (Firstborn)
- Principles of Trust (First Fruits)
- Principle of Obedience (Tithe)

#1 – Principle of Sacrifice (Firstborn)

- Exodus 13:1-2 "Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 'Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."
- God: "The firstborn is Mine."

#1 – Principle of Sacrifice (Firstborn)

- Exodus 13:12-13 "You shall devote to the Lord the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the Lord. But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem."
- The firstborn must be Sacrificed or Redeemed.

#1 – Principle of Sacrifice (Firstborn)

- If it's clean, it must be sacrificed. If it's unclean, it must be redeemed.
- Jesus was God's sacrificial offering.
- God gave Jesus first in faith.
- The Principle of Sacrifice sees a good <u>beyond what's</u> good for me.

"A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing."

Martin Luther

#2 – Principle of Trust (First Fruits)

- "The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God." - Exodus 23:19
 –Reshith (Hebrew) means "the very first of them"
- "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

#2 – Principle of Trust (First Fruits)

- Is God 1st place in every area of your life??
- Jericho "consecrated" to God.
- Give to God what's right...not what's left.
- If most Christian Americans replaced their "pride of ownership" with a "heart of gratitude", this entire generation would be changed.

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose." Jim Elliot

#3 – Principle of Obedience (Tithe)

- "All the tithe of the land, 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
- God says: "All of the tithe is mine."
- Tithe means 10%. The first 10%.
- "The world is mine, and all that is in it." Psalm 50:12

#3 – Principle of Obedience (Tithe)

- When we give to God, we are just taking our hands off what already belongs to Him.
- Your Tithe is not a tax, but a test of your obedience.

Malachi 3:10-11

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts."

#3 – Principle of Obedience (Tithe)

- "pour down blessing" and "rebuke the devourer."
 Malachi 3:10-11
- The first portion has the power to bless the rest.

Key Thought: Placing God first allows us to place our lives under God's blessing and favor.

