

Lifehouse Church

Maximize Christ Potential in You





RETURN

...to your first love

Revelation 2:4



Revelation 2:4-5 (ESV) “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.”

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Revelation 2:4

FIRST FRUITS GIVEN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE

Point 1 – The Priority Of The First



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BIG IDEA

Who or What comes first in your life...
...reveals who rules your life.

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Exodus 13:1-2 (ESV) “The Lord said to Moses, ‘Consecrate to me all the **firstborn**. Whatever is the **first** to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, **is mine.**’”



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Revelation 2:4



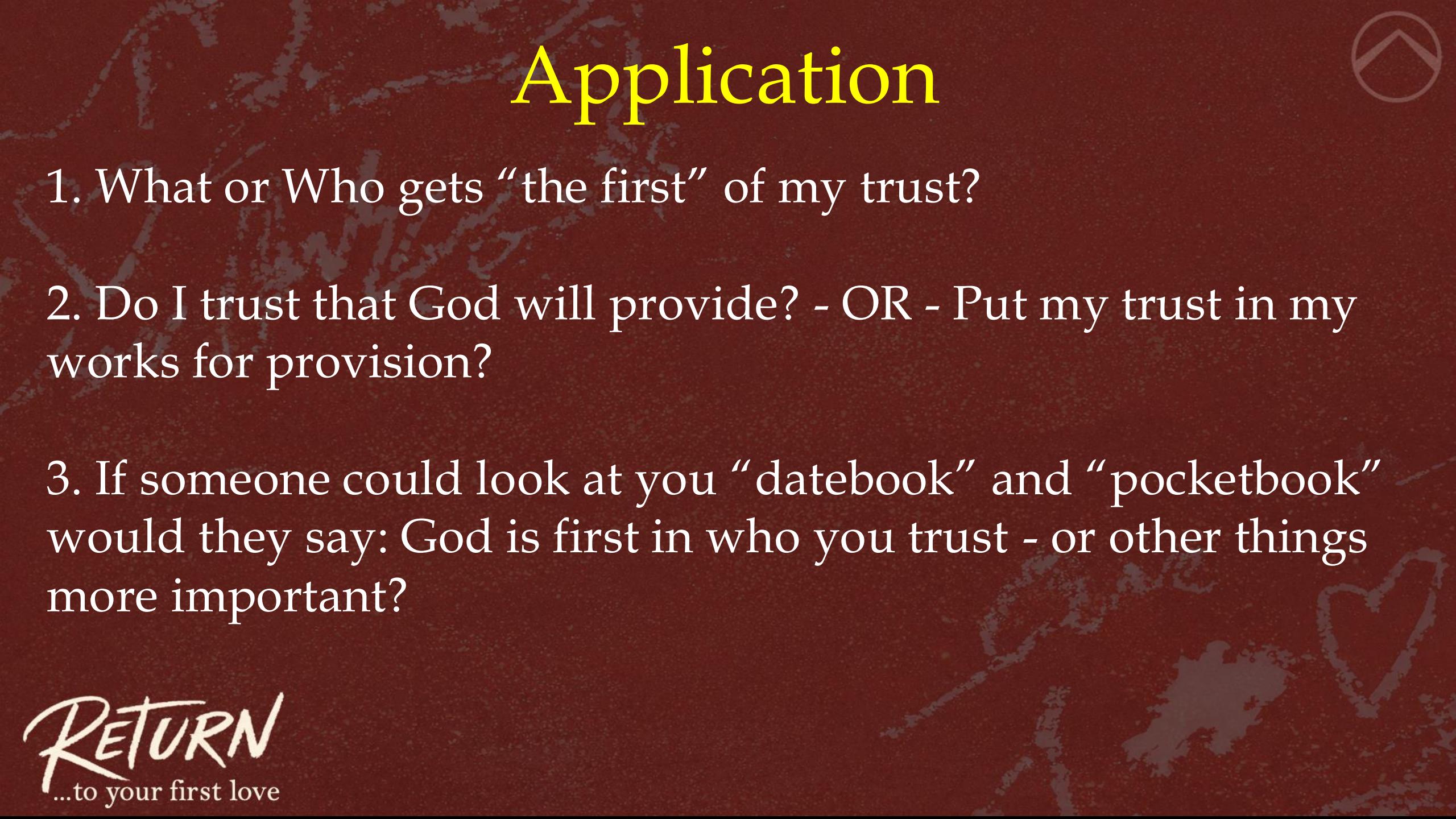
Problem Statement

The problem is not that we stop giving...
...The problem is that we stop giving first.



Solution Statement

The solution is not more emotion...
...it's restored order of priority



Application

1. What or Who gets “the first” of my trust?
2. Do I trust that God will provide? - OR - Put my trust in my works for provision?
3. If someone could look at you “datebook” and “pocketbook” would they say: God is first in who you trust - or other things more important?



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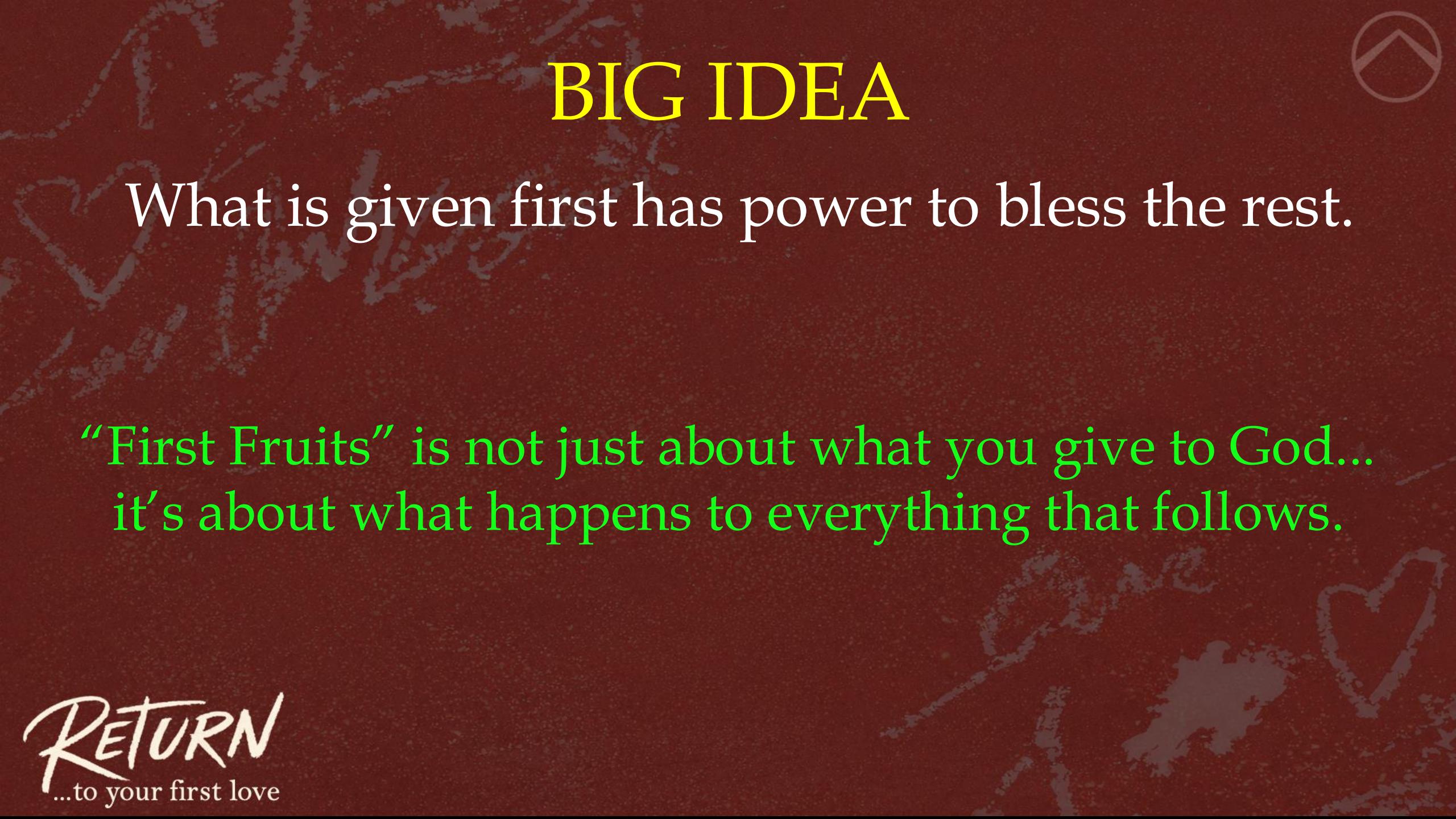
Revelation 2:4



FIRST FRUITS GIVEN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE

Point 1 – The Priority Of The First

Point 2 – The Power of the Portion



BIG IDEA

What is given first has power to bless the rest.

“First Fruits” is not just about what you give to God...
it’s about what happens to everything that follows.



Romans 11:16 (ESV) “If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.”



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Revelation 2:4



BIG IDEA

What is brought toward God...
...becomes aligned with God...
...and shapes what follows it.



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Revelation 2:4



Problem Statement

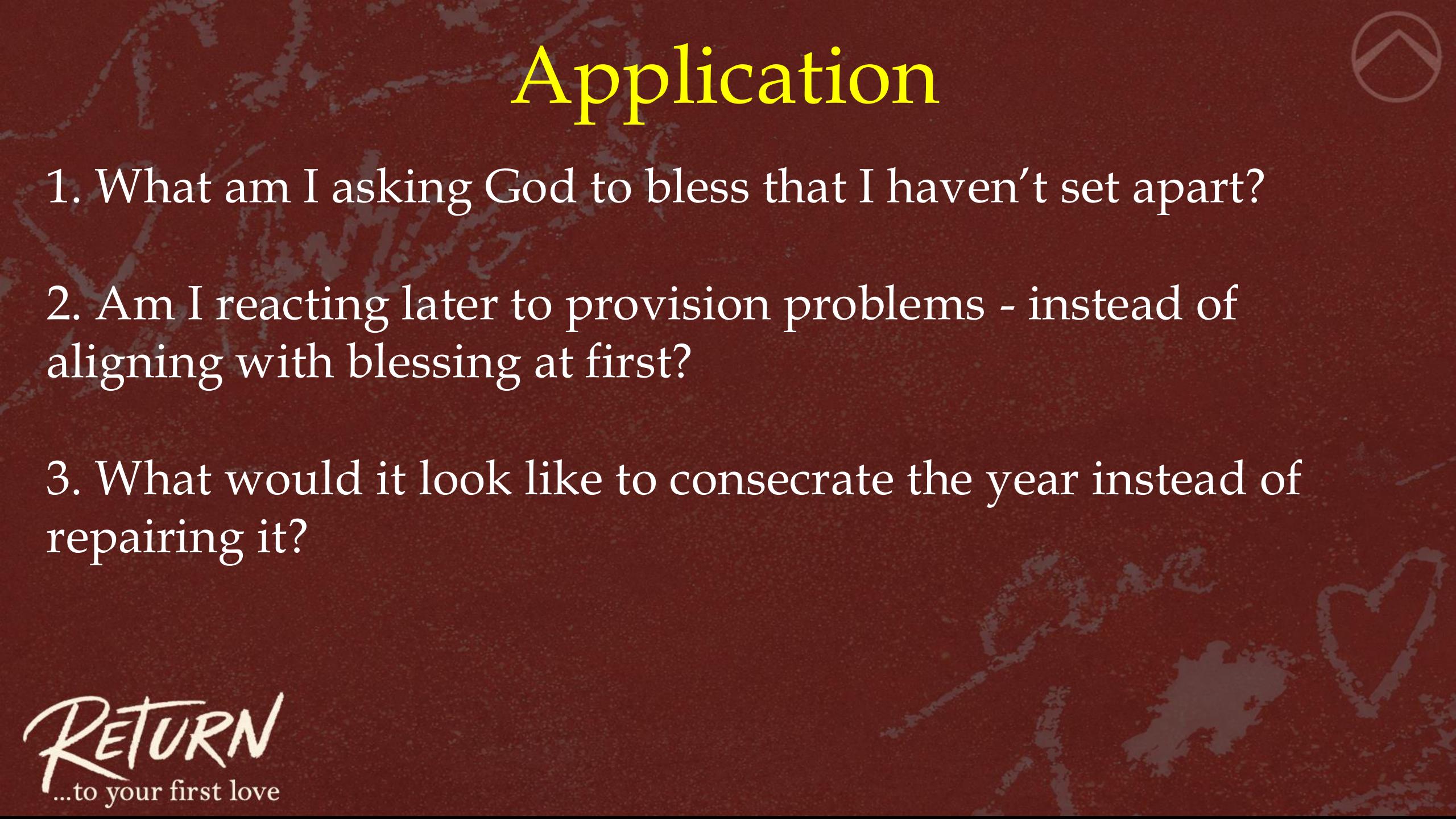
We want God to bless the rest
while withholding the first.



Solution Statement

The solution is “consecration” meaning: setting apart the first

Spiritual Law:
“First Fruits” redeems the remainder.



Application

1. What am I asking God to bless that I haven't set apart?
2. Am I reacting later to provision problems - instead of aligning with blessing at first?
3. What would it look like to consecrate the year instead of repairing it?



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FIRST FRUITS GIVEN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE



Point 1 – The Priority of the First

Point 2 – The Power of the Portion

Point 3 – The Faith of the First Offering



BIG IDEA

Faith moves first; fear waits for leftovers...
...First Fruits always requires faith.

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Deuteronomy 26:1-4 (ESV) “When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of **the first of all the fruit of the ground...** and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose.”





Hebrews 11:4 (ESV) “By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous...”

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Problem Statement

We wait to see what we can afford
to trust God with.



Solution Statement

Faith must move first...
...then faith activates the blessing.



Application

1. Does my giving require faith or do I give out of my comfort?
2. Am I trusting God with the first or managing Him with leftovers?





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FIRST FRUITS GIVEN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE

Point 1 – The Priority of the First

Point 2 – The Power of the Portion

Point 3 – The Faith of the First Offering

Point 4 – The Practice, Not the Date



BIG IDEA

First Fruits is about priority, not the calendar.

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Deuteronomy 26:1-4 (ESV) “When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of **the first of all the fruit of the ground...** and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose.”





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Exodus 23:19 (ESV) “The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God.”

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New Beginnings Giving Ideas

- * A new job or first paycheck
- * A raise or promotion - A bonus or commission
- * A new business season or first profit
- * A new investment return
- * A new season of life – marriage, retirement, empty nest
- * A spiritual reset after repentance or renewal
- * A new opportunity or door opening
- * A new victory after a hard season





Types of Giving to the Lord

- * Tithe (tenth / Test of trust) is our regular and faithful giving
- * First Fruits is first and foundational, given above tithe
- * Offerings are freewill and responsive



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Problem Statement

Teachers turn First Fruits into pressure
or dismiss it as symbolic.



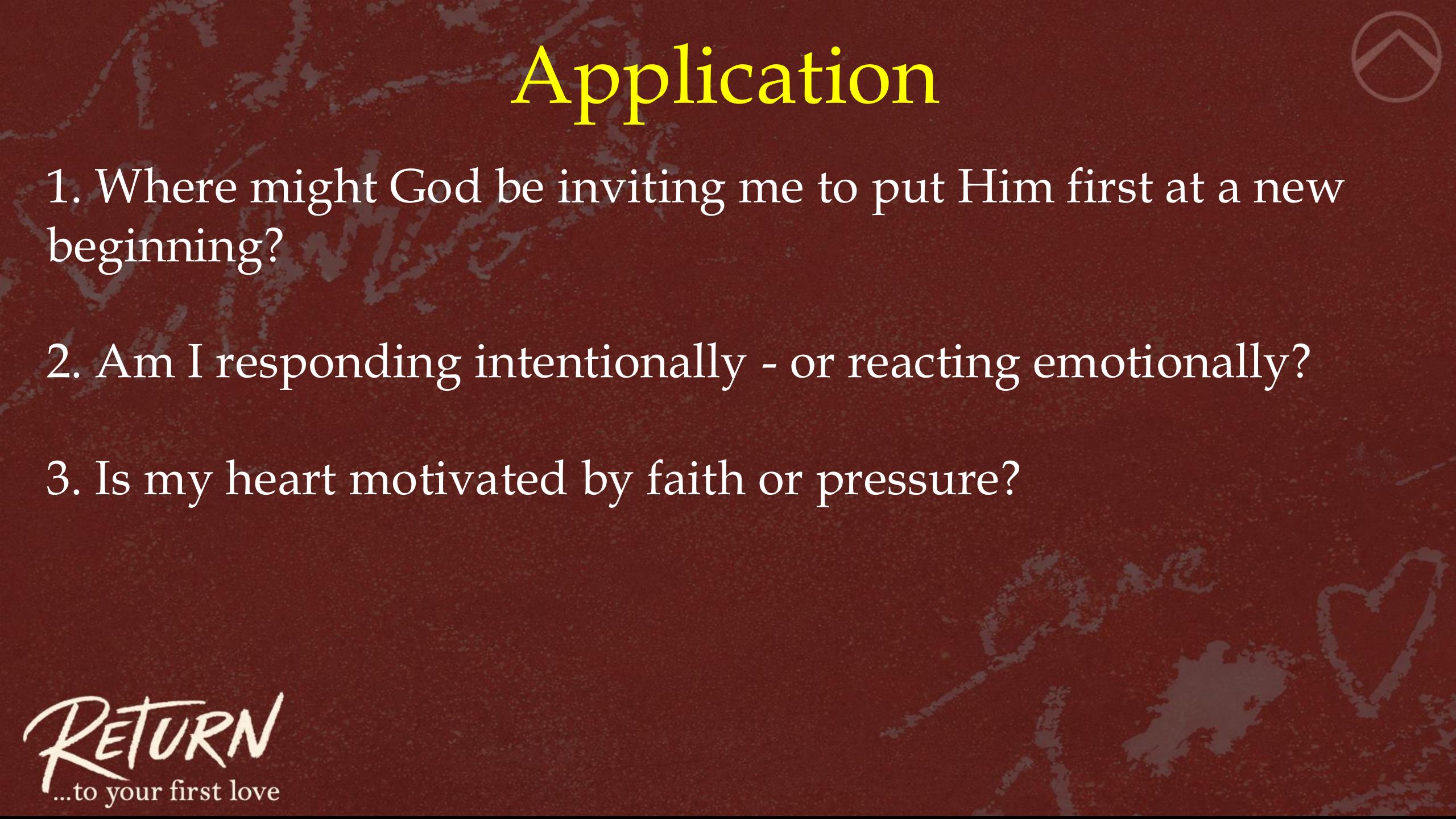
Solution Statement

You must give with freedom
but have faith that God blesses “First Fruits”



BIG IDEA

When you do something to bless God
when it is not commanded,
that is a sign of true love,
sacrificing without being asked.



Application

1. Where might God be inviting me to put Him first at a new beginning?
2. Am I responding intentionally - or reacting emotionally?
3. Is my heart motivated by faith or pressure?



FIRST FRUITS GIVEN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE



Point 1 – The Priority of the First

Point 2 – The Power of the Portion

Point 3 – The Faith of the First Offering

Point 4 – The Practice, Not the Date

Point 5 – The Pattern of the Promise



BIG IDEA

God gave first—so we respond first.

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1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV) “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

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John 3:16 (ESV) “For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son...”

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Problem Statement

Reducing “First Fruits” to monetary value.



Solution Statement

Seeing “First Fruits” as a sacrifice
in your response to God’s love



Application

1. How am I responding to a God who gave first?
2. Does my giving reflect obligation - or worship?



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