

## **Abundant Relationships Our Relationship with Money**

**Genesis 4:2b-5 (ESV)**

*Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. <sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup>and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.*

- “in the course of time”

**BRINGING WHAT’S FIRST OR GIVING WHAT’S LEFT IS  
RADICALLY DIFFERENT**

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**Genesis 4:4b-7 (ESV)**

*<sup>4</sup>And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering; <sup>5</sup>but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his face was gloomy. <sup>6</sup>Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why is your face gloomy? <sup>7</sup>If you do well, will your face not be cheerful? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”*

**Joshua 6:19 (ESV)**

*But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.*

**IT ALWAYS TAKES FAITH TO RETURN WHAT’S FIRST**

**A TITHE IS A TENTH OF WHAT WE’VE RECEIVED**

**Leviticus 27:30 (ESV)**

*Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord.*

**Nehemiah 12:44 (ESV)**

*On that day men were appointed over the storerooms, the contributions, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the Law for the priests and for the Levites according to the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered.*

**FIRSTFRUITS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE LORD  
THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH**

**Exodus 23:19a (ESV)**

*The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God.*

*“I do think the local church has a unique and special place in God’s plan and, therefore, a special claim on the giving of its people.”*

*John Piper*

**OUR FIRSTFRUITS GIVING TO THE CHURCH EMPOWERS  
OUR FUTURE AS THE CHURCH**

Annual Giving Averages	
Percentage of Giving	Age of Givers
62%	50+
20%	40-49
15%	20-39

Of those who *GIVE*, based on the average household income in our region, 29% would be considered Tithers.

## **HING IS A TRUE SIGN OF A REAL MOVE OF GOD**

### **2 CHRONICLES 31:4-9 (ESV)**

***<sup>4</sup> And he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and the Levites, that they might give themselves to the Law of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. <sup>6</sup> And the people of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep, and the tithe of the dedicated things that had been dedicated to the Lord their God, and laid them in heaps. <sup>7</sup> In the third month they began to pile up the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month. <sup>8</sup> When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the Lord and his people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites about the heaps.***

## **GOD PROMISES TO BLESS A FIRSTFRUITS PEOPLE**

### **Proverbs 3:9-10 (ESV)**

***<sup>9</sup> Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.***

### **Malachi 3:10 (ESV)**

***<sup>10</sup> 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.***

## **GOD THE FATHER GAVE HIS FIRST**

### **John 3:16 (ESV)**

***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.***

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (ESV)**

***<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.***