Reverence and Blessing

1. God must come first

Exodus NKJV 13: Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Consecrate[®] to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, *both* of man and beast; it is Mine."

Exodus NKJV 13: ¹² that you shall leset 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. ¹³ 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.

John NKJV 1: ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Matthew NKJV 6: ³¹ "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

2. The righteousness of Grace exceeds the righteousness of the law

Matthew AMP 5: 17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one injot or one inititle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. 19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

3. A Giving heart honors God (pass the test

Romans NKJV 12: ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Matthew NKJV 6²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Malachi NKJV 3: "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' **In tithes and offerings**. "You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, *Even* this whole nation. "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, "Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will* not *be room* enough *to receive it.* "1 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts; ¹² "And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the Lord of hosts.