

I. INTRODUCTION

- One of the most common spiritual laws found throughout scripture is the law of first things.
- Every breakthrough in the Kingdom is activated by a spiritual law. One of the greatest laws overlooked by many is the law of first things.
- Whenever we intentionally put God first, we reap a great harvest. Whenever we withhold from the Lord—by not giving Him first place—His blessing is hindered in our life.

II. UNDERSTANDING THE LAW OF FIRST THINGS

A. Making God the First Order of Business in Your Life

1. Exodus 20:3

NKJV “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Do not allow anything to take priority over your relationship with God. Keep Him in FIRST PLACE at all times in every area of your life.*

2. Matthew 6:31-33

NKJV “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

AMP “But **first and most importantly** seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God], and all these things will be given to you also.”

NET “But **above all** pursue his kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *The key to the blessing of God being upon your life is to seek His kingdom and His ways first! Jesus makes it clear that everything else will come together for your life if you practice seeking the principles of the Kingdom FIRST!*

B. This Principle of “God First” was Established from the Beginning of Time

1. The commanded obedience of Adam and Eve to honor God by not eating of the forbidden fruit was established to KEEP GOD FIRST!

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Adam and Eve didn’t need to understand all of God’s reasons for commanding them not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They just needed to honor God by keeping His Word. The #1 way to keep God first is to honor His Word!*

C. The Blessing of God Only Flowed When God Could Find Someone Willing to Put Him First!

1. Abraham

- a. God’s command to Abraham:

- **Genesis 12:1-4**

NKJV “Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘**Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.** I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ **So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him,** and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *God was setting Abraham up for the greatest blessing of his life. However, the only way God could release blessing upon Abraham was through his complete faith and obedience to what He commanded. When Abraham obeyed the Lord by putting God’s will first, the blessing flowed!*

- b. Abraham was so willing to obey the Lord that he would have sacrificed Isaac.

- **Hebrews 11:17-19**

NKJV “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called’, concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense...”

- c. The blessing of Abraham flowed by keeping God first!

PASTOR’S NOTE: *The blessing of God flows to us as we keep God first!*

2. The Widow and Elijah

a. **1 Kings 17:8-16**

NKJV “Then the word of the Lord came to him: ‘Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.’ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, ‘Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?’ As she was going to get it, he called, ‘And bring me, please, a piece of bread.’ ‘As surely as the Lord your God lives,’ she replied, ‘I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.’ Elijah said to her, ‘Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. **But first** make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’ **She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.** For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.”

PASTOR'S NOTE: *The principle of sowing and reaping is unmistakable in this passage. The prophet's role was sacred—deserving of both honor and provision. When the widow obeyed the prophet's word and supplied what he needed, she positioned herself under the law of first things. She gave and then received; she sowed and then reaped. By putting God's command first, she experienced God's faithful provision.*

D. Tithe and First Fruits—Keeping God First in All Things!

Israel was commanded to observe tithing and other specific offerings, including the offering of first fruits.

1. Exodus 23:19

NKJV “The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.”

a. **“Firstfruits”** refers to the initial yield of a harvest. Firstfruit offerings symbolize dedication to God and gratitude for His blessings.

- The first portion of crops.
- The earliest and best harvest.

2. Proverbs 3:9

ESV “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce...”

3. Malachi 3:10

ESV “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”

4. Deuteronomy 26:2-4

ESV “You shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the Lord your God

that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.' Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God."

E. The Law of First Things

Whenever we put God first in every area of our life, He receives this as an acceptable sacrifice to Him. There will always be an abundant harvest when we put Him first!

1. Give Him first place in your life! Make His ways a higher priority than anything else in your life:
 - a. Personal time spent with God
 - b. Word time and prayer time
 - c. Church attendance
 - d. Giving (tithing and sowing)
 - e. Serving
2. First things first:
 - a. Start your day right by acknowledging Him as the first order of the day.
 - b. Start the year off right by honoring Him in the beginning of the new year.
3. First response:
 - a. Train yourself to look inwardly to your spirit when confronted with issues, rather than allowing your first response to turn outward to reasoning things out.

PASTOR'S NOTE: *I intentionally train myself to look away from the circumstances and look to the Word. I make this my FIRST response, not an emergency / last option response. This is looking to God first and living in the Spirit vs. the natural world.*

4. First words:
 - a. Train yourself to use words of faith—or His Words—as the first response of the day OR to any trouble encountered along the way.
 - b. Let this be your FIRST RESPONSE.
 - c. This is keeping God in the forefront of your life.

5. Guard against anything that is moving God out of *FIRST PLACE* in your life:
 - a. The Devil always works through distraction.

b. **Mark 4:18-19**

NKJV “Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

Vs. 19 AMPC “Then the cares and anxieties of the world and distractions of the age, and the pleasure and delight and false glamour and deceitfulness of riches, and the craving and passionate desire for other things creep in and choke and suffocate the Word, and it becomes fruitless.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *The process of keeping God in first place will always require intentional attention and effort on your part! Whenever God finds a lower place in your life, be intentional about moving Him back to first position!*