

4. The “tithing must be given first” to God.

And all the tithing of the land, whether 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

The giving of the firstfruits of our labor HAS TO BE FIRST otherwise it is not really tithing.

The first portion has the blessing on it: - so do not give the first portion to:

- ✓ The electric company
- ✓ The grocery store
- ✓ Your mortgage company
- Because none of these places has any power to bless your finances; only God can do that for you.

**Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: on the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come
1Corinthians 16:1-2**

First Things First

A principle is a basic truth or law that we live our lives by.

Principles are “IF/THEN” truths that we live our lives by every single day. IF you do this --- THEN this will happen.

- God is the creator of principles.
- God works in our lives through “IF/Then” principles.
- The bible is filled with “IF/THEN” principles.

For example: God uses an “IF/THEN” principle regarding the consequences of sin in the first chapters of Genesis.

God said to Adam and Eve, “You can eat of any tree in the garden but you must not eat of the tree of good and evil for IF you do, THEN you will surely die.” Genesis 2:15

“First things first” simply means that we put God first in every area of our lives.

- ❖ **First in our time - our family - our home - our job - our church - our community - our finances, – first things first**

One of the first biblical principles we need to understand is that God has always used money to test the hearts of his people.

The reason God tests us in the area of money is because the way we handle our money reveals volumes about our priorities, our loyalties and our affections.

Our money tells us more about what we believe about God than any other tool we could use to measure one’s commitment.

**“Where your treasure is there your heart will be also.”
Matthew 6:21**

1. “The firstborn must either be sacrificed or redeemed”.

The LORD said to Moses, “Consecrate or set apart to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites, whether man or animal, it belongs to me – it is mine.

Exodus 13:1-2

Then you shall set 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. 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. Exodus 13:12-13

The rule that God set up is that the first born, of a clean animal, had to be sacrificed and the first born, of the unclean animal, had to be redeemed by sacrificing a clean animal.

The clean animal’s firstborn had to be sacrificed - but those that were unclean animals - had to be redeemed. (Bought Back)

❖ **This is one of the greatest pictures in the bible of what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us.**

Once sin entered into the world, every one of us were born unclean; every one of us are born sinners from Adam’s sin until today; which means all of us are born unclean.

❖ **“The clean has to be sacrificed- the unclean has to be redeemed.”**

Because we were born unclean and Jesus was born clean, Jesus laid down his life as a sacrifice to redeem us.

This passage in Exodus foreshadows what Jesus Christ is going to do on the cross.

The clean is sacrificed so that the unclean can be redeemed (and this is tied to our finances as well.

2. The firstborn belongs to God

We see this truth evidenced in the tenth plague, when God allowed all of the firstborn in Egypt to die but saved all those whose doorposts were marked with the blood of a lamb. Exodus 11 and 12

What is the picture here? – it is a picture of Christ on the Cross. The Israelites were saved by the blood of the Lamb in the form of a cross.

How are we saved? By the blood of the lamb on the cross
Why was Jesus killed and sacrificed?

Because he was the firstborn AND Because He was clean he was sacrificed to redeem the unclean... which is you and I.

3. The principle of the firstfruits.

The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God. The first of your firstfruits. Exodus 23:19

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

❖ **Our giving is our declaration that we are putting God first.
First things first.**

“Do not keep any of the silver and gold found in Jericho. It is mine. Joshua 6:17

We are to set aside our firstfruits to God because they are holy and consecrated – they belong to the Lords house.

We give God’s portion first because it is consecrated, devoted and holy.