

GIVING GOD OUR BEST

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Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Exodus 23:19; Proverbs 3:9-10

What is your best gift? What is the best thing you can give God?

“Giving what one’s hand calls for,” is an old phrase for a way to determine what one deserves. If a person is a giving person with regard for others, that person deserves the best. If a person is mean and has no regard for any one else’s feelings, they don’t deserve to be treated favorably. We have heard, “What goes around comes around.” We have read, “You reap what you sow.” If we think a person meets certain expectations we have of them then we feel they deserve the best. If they don’t meet our expectations, we don’t feel they deserve our best. If the truth be told, we go through the same process with God. We may not want to admit it, but it is true. If we gave God what His hand called for we would have to give Him everything. God has an open hand that pours into our lives everyday. He has given us more than we can possibly imagine. If we had to give Him what His hand called for, we would have to give Him our best gift. What is our best gift?

Society says we are in recession. However, if you look at the cars we are driving, the houses in which we live, and the jobs we have, it does not look as if we are in a recession. However, we still struggle with what to give God. When we weren’t making so much money, we didn’t struggle so much with what to give God. **Luke 12:48** You are wondering if there is a limit. When we are on the receiving end we want the limits to be removed. There are others waiting for their wealth to manifest. What you have to admit is that no matter our financial situation, we have all received great blessings from God. God just keeps on doing great things. Some of us are overwhelmed with God’s goodness and ask, “How do I say thanks to God for all He has done?” We still ask, “What is our best?” **Deuteronomy 8:10** God knew we would need a plan of what we should give Him.

It is because of God’s grace and the fact that He is so generous that we have what we have. You wouldn’t have had the income to get the house you live in, the car you drive, and the credit you used to purchase those things without God. Everything is a gift from God. The term first fruit is referring to the first. It means more than fruit. The Bible says you ought to honor the Lord with the first; which is the best. **Genesis 4:3** In this text, Cain gave the Lord some of the fruit of soil. Some of us give God some after we have paid our mortgage, car notes, and other bills. We may even buy a purse or new shoes first. However, Abel brought God his best. Every time we give to the Lord we should give Him our best. It needs to be of the highest quality. It doesn’t just apply in church. You should give your best at home by being a good husband and father at home. You ought to be a good wife and mother at home. You should give the first fruit of your time with your children. Play with them at the time of day when you are at your best. You should also give your best at work. Get to work

early for a change and leave a little late. Let everyone know what first fruit is all about. It is the best and the most excellent.

Exodus 4:21-23 In this text, God was to send plagues because Pharaoh wouldn't let His people go. The firstborn of every house not covered by the blood was killed. Israel's firstborn were not killed because of the blood on the doors. We have to be covered by the blood of the Lamb. **Hebrews 9:22** It is our protection. **Exodus 13:2** God told the Israelites that all firstborn whether human or animal belonged to Him. God redeemed Israel's firstborn consecrated to Him. **Numbers 3:39-51** As Israel is the firstborn, there are men and women of every kindred and every tribe that came after them. Israel was redeemed by God. You have been redeemed by God as His first fruit. **1 Peter 2:9-10** He has set us up to be His representatives in the world. It is through our witness and prayer that the world will be changed. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** You are not your own. You have been bought with a price so honor God with your mind, body, spirit, and your work. The whole concept of first fruit is when you give your first fruit; it is representation of who owns everything. **Psalms 24:1** God is going to want to know what you have done with His stuff.

What have you got to show for all God has done for you? The Word says honor the Lord with all of your wealth, the first fruit of what He has given you. In the text, the first fruit was indication that there was more like it to come. **Ephesians 1:13-14** They brought their first fruit during Passover. Passover for us signifies when Jesus was crucified and resurrected. The way that we have authority and power is because we are the fruit that followed Jesus. So on Easter Sunday we bring our first fruit in commemoration that God will do what He says. You know that God is a God of His word. Out of love and obedience to God we provide Him a way to open up our lives and pour into it. The word says honor the Lord with your first fruit and then there will be an overflow. **Malachi 3:10**

Peace.

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