

BIBLICAL BASIS FOR FIRSTFRUITS

2 FEBRUARY 2025

Introduction

Beloved, next week we host our Firstfruits Celebration here at TSC. While some are eager and look forward to it, there are those who are not convinced and a may even be critical. **Why should we part with our hard-earned cash for the benefit of the Church is usually the criticism.** I get that. Many years ago, when I first heard about a church practicing FF, I was skeptical too. I dismissed it as an OT practice that irrelevant under the new covenant. However, when I engaged the teaching proper, I learnt something different which was never taught to us in the past. It was then I had to decide whether to practice Firstfruits or not – I did! If you live by convictions rather than convenience you would need to make a decision. Living by the truth can be costly and painful, but with definite rewards also.

What I discovered is that the Firstfruits principle is deeply embedded in God - part of his nature and character. **God embodies this principle and employs it in Creation.** For example, before he creates which we read about in Genesis chapter 1, God offers His Firstborn on the altar of sacrifice. **Revelation 13** says that Christ was sacrificed in Spirit before the foundation of the earth. Which means the entirety of creation is built on the principle of the Firstfruits. Hence, I am not surprised that the first word in the bible is 'reshiyt' which is one of the Hebrew words for 'Firstfruits.' Translators used the words 'In the beginning.' Biblical basis for Firstfruits!

1. The WHY of Firstfruits

One of the keys to understanding the 'why' of Firstfruits is the concept of [Resourcefulness that is unique to God](#). A Resource Centre is to be a person/place that supplies. For example, a library is a resource centre that supplies information while a pharmacy supplies medication. However, every resource centre on earth has a limited supply. There comes a time when that supply runs out or stops. Information in the library can hold only so many books, journals or periodicals. Right? **When it comes to the heaven there is an endless supply – it never runs out.** God intends to bring that endless supply to the earth so that multiple generations will continue to experience sufficiency. FF is that partnership/collaboration/agreement between the heavens and earth for abundance. So, God has declared that the firstborn of all creation and the first fruit of all crops is mine – it is sacred and holy. If we offer to God in honour & thanksgiving that which is Holy, then the heavens will ensure an abundant supply. Abraham was told his offspring will be like sand/stars count! Had to offer the firstborn!

Proverbs 3:9-10 [NKJV]

⁹ Honor the Lord with your possessions [wealth]
And with the Firstfruits of ALL your increase.

¹⁰ So your barns will be filled to [overflowing](#),
And your vats will [brim over\[bursting\]](#) with new wine.

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Are you tired of just having enough – making ends meet – surviving? From one pay cheque to the next? Firstfruits is about THRIVING and living in the overflow. However, all of God's promises is conditional!

Yet there is a certain ethic in God which reflects his absolute generosity. **He does expect anything of His Creation without first providing it Himself.** If he is going to say to Abraham sacrifice your only son. He is going to first provide that son called Isaac to Abraham when he could not, due to Sarah's barrenness. This is how our Father operates. Not like Pharaoh the father of Egypt who instructs the Israelites to make more bricks without providing more time and materials. **He is expecting where he has not sown.** In the parable of the talents, we learn of the Lord who entrusts gifts to people according to their capacity. He leaves on a trip and when he returns, he enquires about their investments. The strange thing is that the one did not invest but buried the talent accused God of being one who 'reaps where he has not sown,' and one who 'gathers where he has not sown.' What is wrong with that picture? Hello, God just gave you one talent! He is the God who first sows into our lives, but we are the ones who want to reap without sowing!

2 Corinthians 9:10-11, 'Now He who supplies seed to the sower & bread for food will also supply & increase your store of seed & will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, & through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. [NIV]

2. The HOW of Firstfruits

How does it work? To be honest it is a mystery that I do not fully understand. What I do know is that **the power of the Firstfruits is in its ability to travel ahead of us or go before us.** Therefore, it is known as the FIRST fruit. It has the power to work on our behalf like a planning committee that goes ahead and makes all the necessary arrangements for our arrival. So that when you arrive the accommodation is sorted, the meals arranged, the travel facilitated, etc. A son was born to Rachel after 10 sons were born to Jacob her husband. She named him prophetically Joseph – which means '**God will add.**' Through the life of Joseph, Rachel was declaring the arrival of another. He would be named Benjamin. **God added as she declared beforehand.** Joseph is the type of Christ and Benjamin the Church. **Christ, the firstborn was given by God and through him God ADDED many sons to Glory.** You will witness firsthand the goodness of God as he adds to you! Let me share a personal testimony. During COVID everything went into lockdown – we could do much because of the uncertainty of the future and the threat to life. It was at time God opened the door for me do the master's degree with a UK university. The cost was R200 000. Where do you find that kind of money when everything shutting down? There's more...My laptop was aging and packing up. To study online you need the right tools. A state-of-the-art, brand-new Apple MacBook Pro was delivered to my door absolutely free of any charge. Now if that is not God then, I am not what is! The second word for Firstfruits is '**bikkurim,**' which means a 'promise to come.' **FF offerings in God's economy are an investment into the future.**

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The life of the fruit is contained
in the seed of the fruit.



He who does not eat his seed
preserves his future.

Thamo Ndoo

TM

3. The WHAT of Firstfruits

In farming there is a phenomenon where before the actual time set for the harvest, certain fruits get ripe first. This is how God wired the ground to yield a certain percentage. **Rabbis calculated that figure at 2.5% of the total harvest which works out to one week's wages.** God makes the claim and as the Creator He is entitled to it, that the first fruit to ripen is holy or belongs to Him. Do not eat it but set it aside as an offering because if the 'Firstfruits is holy, then the entire harvest is holy or blessed by God.'

Romans 11:16, 'If the first fruit offered is holy, then the whole batch is holy, and if the root is holy, so too are the branches.' [NKJV]. In other words, the Firstfruits offered to God ensures that one's entire wealth is covered and secured by the Lord. One thing that you must be aware of is the **spirit of the devourer that seeks to steal, kill and destroy your wealth.** This is not fear mongering/a threat but reality – Malachi warns of it!

Conclusion

The important question is now this: **Should I practice Firstfruits Offering?** To answer that question, you will have to decide whether or not it is the word of God. Do you think Father expects of me to offer my first week's salary to him? **Whenever you make an offering of sacrifice you build an altar to God.** The altar is the place of transaction between the heavens and the earth. You become a gateway of heavens through which God couriers Himself to your generation. It will all depend on how resourceful you would want to be and the kind of impact you want to make on the earth.

Remember it must be done with **HONOUR**...Honour God with the Firstfruits of All your Increase! To Honour is to recognize and ascribe value. If you do not place any value on the Father, you will not honour Him. If you know His worth to you, one week's wages will be a joy and privilege to offer. You will come next week rejoicing! Remember this in life...whatever you honour gets drawn to you and whatever you dishonour gets drawn away from you! Test out that principle in life and see if it really works!