

Taking the Limits Off God 4

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Obeying the **principle of first** literally takes the **limits off God** and provides an **open Heaven**.

God is first, whether you make Him first or not.

Wherever God is **FIRST** will have an **OPEN HEAVEN**.

Exodus 13:1-2 – ¹ 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.**" *NKJV*

Exodus 13:12-13 – ¹² You are to give over to the LORD the **first offspring** of every womb. All the **firstborn** males of your livestock **belong to the LORD**. ¹³ Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons. *NIV*

1. The unclean must be redeemed with the sacrifice of the clean.
 - Redeem the UNCLEAN with the sacrifice of the CLEAN.
 - We were born UNCLEAN.
 - Jesus was born CLEAN.
 - When God is FIRST, the rest is REDEEMED or under an OPEN HEAVEN.
2. The first fruits must be offered to God.
 - God REQUIRES THE FIRST.

CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4:3-5 – ³ In **the course of time** Cain brought **some of the fruits** of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ But Abel brought fat portions from some of **the firstborn** of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. *NIV*

The Course of Time vs. Firstborn

Proverbs 3:9 - Honor the Lord by giving him the **first part** of **all your income**, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines. **TLB**

JERICHO – FIRST CITY CONQUERED

- Achan kept what belonged to God.
- God said, "You have stolen from me."
- Lose the next battle – 36 men died

THE TITHE

Malachi 3:7-10 – ⁷ Ever since the time of your forefathers you have **turned away** from my decrees and have not kept them. **Return to me**, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, '**How are we to return?**'" ⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' " **In tithes and offerings.** ⁹ You are **under a curse**-the whole nation of you-**because you are robbing me.** ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me** in this," says the LORD Almighty, "**and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.**

You can't GIVE what isn't YOURS

- Bring the tithe
- Keeping = stealing

If God isn't FIRST in your money, HE ISN'T FIRST IN YOUR LIFE!

Matthew 6:33 - But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and **all these things shall be added to you.**

Exodus 13:14-15 – ¹⁴ "In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵ When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. **This is why** I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.'