

FIRST FRUITS OFFERING

K.J.V : Jesus taught his disciples in St. Luke 6:38 saying, give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

N.L.T : St. Luke 6:38 reads, give, and you will receive, your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

WHAT IS FIRST FRUITS ? In Leviticus 23:10 God told his people through his servant Moses, that when you come into the land which I give you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest.

God called his people to bring the first yield - the First Fruits from their harvest to him as an offering. This was to demonstrate the Israelites obedience and reverence for God. The Israelites saw these First Fruits as an investment into their future. God told them that if they brought their First Fruits to him, he would bless all that came afterwards to the overflow.

FIRST FRUITS IN THE BIBLE :

Proverbs 3:9 - Says honor the Lord with your wealth, and with the First Fruits of all thine increase. What started as a specific instruction for bringing crops to the temple priest was expanded on later in scripture. It no longer refers to literal fruit - First Fruits means any income, wealth, or blessings that a Christian has received over the course of the year.

In 1 Corinthians 15:20 Paul mentions Jesus as the First Fruit of those who have fallen asleep. Jesus was Gods First Fruit - his one and only son, and the very best God had to offer.

St. Mark 12: 41-44 THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

As Jesus sat and observed the people giving, he noticed those who were rich cast their offering in out of the wealth of their abundance and then came in a little widow woman who cast in two mites or two copper coins

whom Jesus noticed and called attention to his disciples saying, this woman has cast in more than all of them. For she of what did cast in all she had, even all her living. So when you give your First Fruits Offering don't try to compare or compete with anyone else, but just know God looks at our attitude and our motives for giving. And please remember our King and Heavenly Father will reward you for your giving and that to the overflow.

HOW TO GIVE A FIRST FRUIT OFFERING

1. **PRAY** - If your goal is obedience to God, it only makes sense that you would first go to him in prayer. Ask him what should you do with your money and resources. Listen to what he says.
2. **PREPARE** - Have a plan in place knowing what you're able to sacrifice and when.
3. **PRIORITIZE** - The whole idea behind a First Fruit Offering is to put God first. That may be donating your first hour of pay, or your first day of pay, or even your first week / month of pay to the church.

Remember : We give our First Fruits Offering to our King of Kings and his responsibility for giving back the increase as St Luke 6:38 declares, give, and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over shall men give into your bosom.