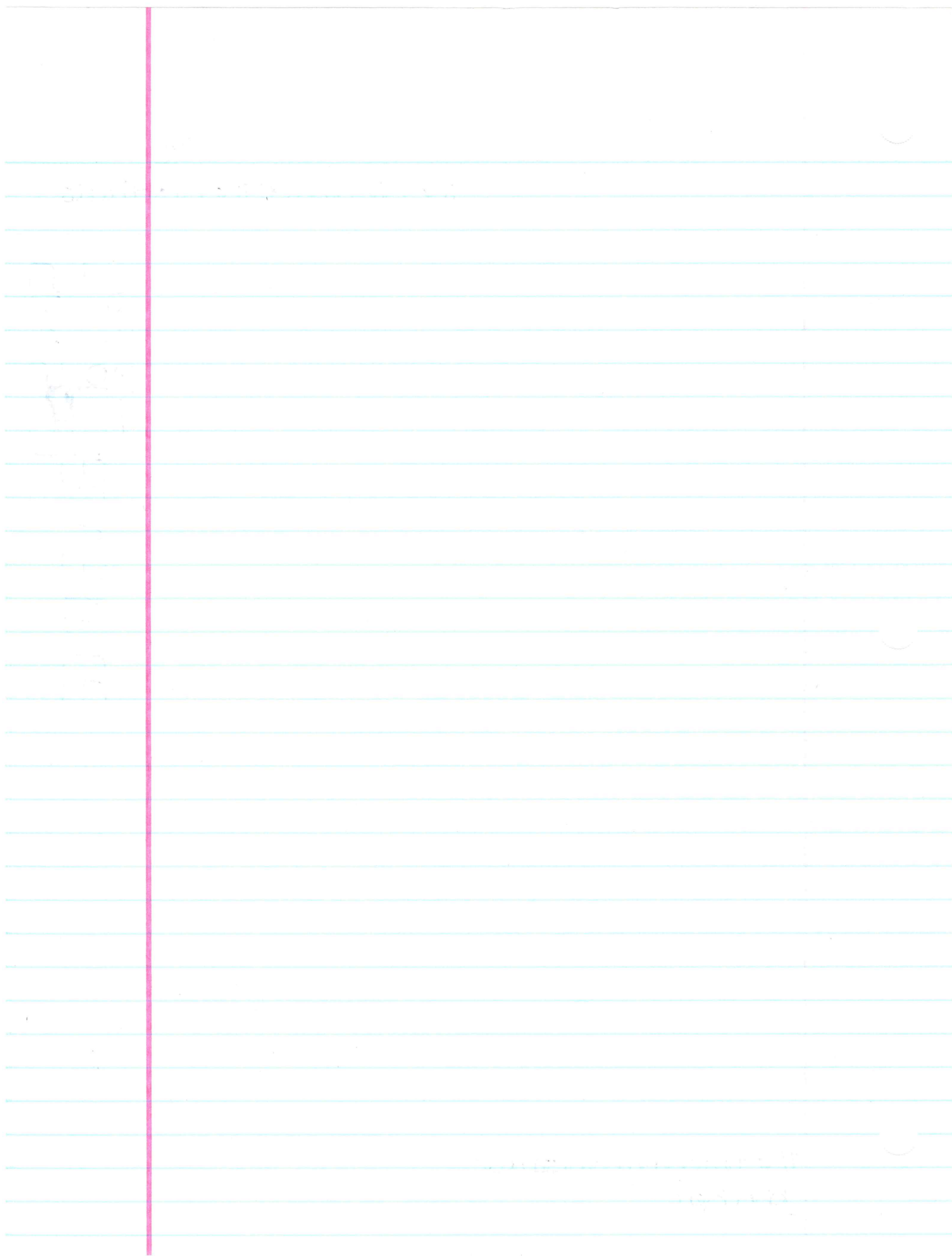


#10

The Blessing Of The Firstfruits

SONGS
OF DELIVERANCE
—Psalm 32:7—

The teaching ministry of
John Kerr



SONGS OF ELVERANCE

- Scripture: Deut 26 The Blessing of The Firstfruits

- Key Verse: Deut 26:2,15

"When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you take possession of it and live in it, you must take some of the first of all the land's produce that you harvest from the land Yahweh your God is giving you, and put it in a container." - v.15

(HCSB)

First belongs to God. "Selah."

(Stop, and meditate on that.)

First must be given back to God. "Selah."

This principle runs the length of God's Word. First. God says, "It's Mine. Give it back to Me." From the day of creation it was so. "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." - Gen 2:16,17 (NKJV) In the center of Eden was the beginning of the principle of first. "That tree is Mine."

- READ: Genesis 4:2-7

The reason God respected Abel's offering, and not Cain's was that Abel brought the first. Cain brought an offering "in the process of time"; when he got around to it. The cross-reference of my Bible says, "at the end of day". When Cain could fit it into his time, and had some extra, he gave some to God.

God wanted first.

God blessed Abel's offering because it was first. - Gen 4:4

I. First is An Attitude - Matt 22:37

God alone is first.

"Thou shalt have no other gods BEFORE me"

- Exod 20:3 (emphasis mine)

Anything that takes position in front of God is an idol; an "other god before [Him]." God established early that He is jealous of that position.

"I the Lord thy God am a jealous God," - Exod 20:5b

He wants us to place Him above all others in our thinking.

FIRST is an attitude.

In all we do, in every moment, we are to make Him first. We are to consider Him first. It's an attitude of our hearts. It is the first commandment, and Jesus said that all others hang on it.

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

On these two commandments hang all the laws and the prophets." - Matt 22:37, 38, 40

It's first; love God first. When you make decisions, God must be first. - Prov 3:5, 6 It is so easy to live our life with God tucked away on Sunday morning. (And He better not run late, or I won't get to Golden Corral before the Pentecostals!) God wants first in all of our thoughts, ALL week, ALL day.

II First is a Path To Blessing - Deut 26:12-15

"Look down from Thy holy habitation, from heaven and bless Thy people Israel, and the land which Thou hast given us, as Thou swarest unto our fathers, a land that floweth with milk and honey." - v. 15

A. God Sees the Attitude of First

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"Look down from Thy holy habitation."

* Notice verse 13: "Then thou shalt say before the Lord thy God."

* You have God's order to speak His blessing into your own life, when you obey and make Him first. *

Oh! Please read that about five times!

You can claim God's blessing when you give God the FIRST!

You can claim God's blessing when you give Him the first. Not "beg" — "say"...

"Father, I have obeyed You, Sir, and I brought back to You what is Yours. Now, with joy and thankful heart, I receive the blessings You promised me."

— READ: Deuteronomy 28:1-14 Those blessings!

1. "I brought out of my house the hallowed things."

"I will not allow anything that is God's to remain in my house. That first 10% of all my increase is His, get it out of my house! To His!" It is an attitude that God sees and honors with blessing.

2. "I gave the first to God, and His work."

"unto the Levite... unto the stranger... fatherless... widow." God has a mighty work to do with your first! This is how God's economy works. This is how God helps the poor! Look what God just did!

When you obeyed God with the first, God gave it to the poor. >> Now, the poor person has a first! >> Glory to God! And there is his way out of poverty!

Now, God blesses you because you

honored Him with the firstfruits of all your increase. Your barns begin to be filled with plenty, and your presses BURST out with new wine. — "Joy" — Pr 3:9,10

And here comes the widow with her two mites; the tithe of the money SHE got because you tithed. Bless God! And she says, "I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house..." And Jesus says, "Do you see that widow? She gave most; out of her poverty." I assure you, God did not allow that widow to lack. He has covenanted otherwise!

You see, God's economy always thrives. God's welfare program eliminates poverty, it does not perpetuate it. So, why did Jesus tell Judas Iscariot, "The poor you have with you always?" There will always be those — poor AND rich — who don't get it, and don't believe God. So, they stay poor, or their riches take to themselves wings."

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Begin where you are. If you increase by \$10⁰⁰, give God \$100. SAY! "God, I have brought out of my house, the hallowed things. I have given what belongs to you to

Begin where you are. If you increase \$10⁰⁰, give God \$100.

your work. I haven't used any of it for myself. I have obeyed your commandment, Lord. Look down from Heaven, and bless me with abundance." Hallelujah! He will!

B. God Blesses The Rest of What you Possess.

-Read: Malachi 3:8-12

God told the nation of Israel (and us) that they had robbed Him. Robbery is taking something that is not yours. They had kept back the tithe that belonged to Him, and He said, "You are cursed with a curse." Notice, He did not

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say, "I have cursed you." The curse is built into the sin. When we take what is God's, we curse our finances. But God comes to remove the curse. - Gal 3:13

This is the only place in the Bible where God says to try Him!

1. Bring ALL of the tithes into God's storehouse.

God wants meat in His house. There's an interesting reason why. Instead of stealing...

"Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." - Eph 4:28

This is how our God works; in giving. So, take away the curse, Give God what's His.

2. Try God! Really!

God's Word is always true, but I've tried Him myself. Even in prison, God has not failed. So here comes the personal story...

Take away the curse,
Give God
What's His!

"God, I know I need to give, but they don't give cash here in county jail." So God said, "When I send someone to you who has a need, you give to me, and I will bless you." I did what He said, and I never did without. I tithe'd shots of coffee, and noodles, and Rice Krispy Treats.

Then, I came to prison, and a few months ago I found out I can send out real money. So, I asked God if I should update my giving, and begin sending out a "real" tithe. I studied the Scriptures that you and I are studying right now. We get \$10 a month state pay, so the tithe would be \$1. I decided to really try Him, and give \$2. In freedom, \$2 is nothing, but

here, that could be your bar soap for a month!

I did exactly what I'm telling you. I thanked God that He had given me abundance. I thanked Him that He was going to open the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing that I couldn't hold. I did that with my August State Pay, then three weeks later, I did it with September's. By the second or third week of September, I had \$138⁰⁰ on my books! Guess what I did first? Guess what I will continue to do first?

3. God will open up Heaven, and bless you.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosoms.

For with the same measure ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." - John 6:38 (KJV)

If you are not receiving that kind of blessing from God, then there are two options: 1) Explain away the Word of God. 2) Change your mind (repent) about giving, and do it God's way.

God WANTS to bless your giving! He wants to give you back more than you gave! If you'll just do it the way He says. Give Him what is His first.

Hold on, it gets even better...

4. God will rebuke the devourer for you.

Before I got right with God, I planted my back yard garden full of tomatoes. About half of them rotted on the vine. The devourer. I drove big truck, making 6-\$800 per week. We budgeted religiously. Our only bills were house (\$450/mo), utilities, groceries, and gasoline. Somehow, we never quite made it. The devourer.

God says here that He will stop all of that. Not only will He give you more than you can contain, but He

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won't let it spoil!

Do you know why? He gave you that extra so you could give someone else increase. Then they will have a "first" to give! Can you see what will happen when God's people just begin to believe Him on this?

5. God will get the glory.

THAT is what it's all about. God gets praise, glory, and thanksgiving.

"And all nations shall call you blessed:" - Mal 3:12

"And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee," - Deut 26:11a

-READ:

11 Corinthians 10:6-15

The church at Corinth was planning to send a financial blessing to the church in Macedonia. Paul was working out the details (see vs. 1-5). Now, he's encouraging the Corinthian believers in their giving. He explains some of God's basic principles regarding giving:

1 - When you give, you are sowing seed that will produce a harvest to you according to how you sow. - 9:6

*notice: "shall reap", no question about it.

2 - Your attitude of faith makes a difference - 9:7

If you BELIEVE verse 6, it's not hard to give cheerfully!

3 - God REALLY wants you to have more than you need so you can help others who need. - 9:8

"abound to every good work:" (see verse 9, too)

4 - God's abundance on you produces thanksgiving from you - 9:11

5. - Your generosity causes others to be thankful to God as well.

- 9:12

* Here's the point: Prosperity causes God to be praised! *
When you give, and God blesses your giving, your natural response is going to be praise to God. When God put all that

Prosperity money on my account, and my box was full of good, do you think God got praised? You to be praised! better believe He did! When God blesses you, and you praise Him, He feels just like you do, watching your kids on Christmas morning.

"They glorify God... for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;" - 9:13

"And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land," says the Lord of hosts." - Mal 3:12

So, begin today...

- Do:

1. When God gives you increase, separate FIRST what is His. (I write those cash vouchers BEFORE I go to store!)
2. Follow the pattern of Deut 26, and out loud, speak God's blessing on that tithe. * Review the two prayers in these notes.
3. As you wait for God's harvest of blessing, keep thanking Him that it's coming.
4. Don't stop for any reason. God WILL BE FAITHFUL; wait on Him.

If you follow this from your heart, this will change your life!

"Father, I pray over every person reading these notes. I agree with each one that you bless them 100-fold; that you will open your storehouse, and empty them out blessing they cannot contain. That way, they will hold loosely to your blessing, and bless others. Help giving to become our lifestyle, as it is yours. Abundantly bless your people, and we will abundantly praise you, Lord God. In Jesus' Name - Amen."