

Living The Blessed Life  
First Things First  
Deuteronomy 15:10; 28:8,12

Introduction - Being "**BLESSED**" means having the supernatural power of God working for you.

- E.g. Days filled with divine "coincidences" and heavenly meaning

I. The Principle of **FIRSTBORN**

- Established - Exodus 13:2; 12-13; The clean firstborn was sacrificed and the unclean had to be redeemed
- Jesus was God's tithe - John 1:29
- He was given BEFORE we believed - Romans 5:8; 8:29
- Illustrated in Egypt - Exodus 12:7
- By tithing we are trusting God to take care of the rest - Matthew 16:25; Church / first of the week

II. The Principle of First **FRUITS**

- Established - Exodus 23:19a; First and the Lord's house  
- Proverbs 3:9-10
- E.g. Jericho - Joshua 6:19, 18; Achan
- Robbing God - Malachi 3:8-9, 6a
- Many things under the Law are still life principle with God
- Illustrated by Cain and Abel - Genesis 4:3-5
- The tithe redeems the rest - Leviticus 27:30, Romans 11:16
- God doesn't NEED us to give; We NEED to be blessed;  
- Example: 1.8 Percent

III. **PASS** It Down - Exodus 13:14-15

- The story of Egypt; Our slavery to sin broken
- We give first to the Lord then HE blesses, protects and provides for us

Conclusion - May we begin 2017 by **COMMITTING** to God First.

*All scripture is from the HCSB unless otherwise noted.*