

# THE FIRST AND THE BEST

FASTING 2025

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10 NIV

The Bible encourages us to give God the first of all that we receive. This not only shows that we recognize Him as our source of provision and trust that all good things come from Him, but it also demonstrates that He holds first place in our lives. It is not just about saying it or singing it; our lives must reflect this principle by giving God the first and the best.


“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:36-38 NLT

This is how Jesus summarized all of Scripture. He declared it to be the first and most important commandment. True love is putting the one you love above everything else. Loving God cannot be just words; it must be reflected in all areas of our lives, with everything we are and possess, because everything comes from Him.

Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

Genesis 4:2-5 NLT



Abel offered the firstborn of his sheep, the fattest and the best, which pleased God. His offering was not distinguished because it was an animal sacrifice, but because it was the best of what he had. Cain, on the other hand, presented some of his crops, but not the first nor the best. This story teaches us that our sacrifices to God must reflect not only quantity but also quality and heartfelt intention.

Jesus Christ is called the "First fruits" of the resurrection, meaning that He is the first and most important in God's new creation. He is not only the firstborn but also the greatest. The Father demonstrated how to give the first and the best by giving His Son's life as a perfect sacrifice for us.

As we celebrate the First fruits, we remember that God deserves the best from us and that our happiness depends on putting Him first. Like Abel, and following the example of Jesus Christ, we must strive to give our best to God, recognizing His importance in every area of our lives.

As we reflect on our daily practice, let us remember that every offering is an act of worship and gratitude that strengthens our relationship with our Creator. By giving Him the first and the best, we not only fulfill a spiritual duty, but also attest to our confidence that God is, and always will be, sufficient for all our needs.

### **Application**

Commit to giving God the best of your time. Before starting your day, dedicate the first few minutes to prayer and reading the Bible, seeking spiritual guidance and strength. This sets an intentional tone of dependence and gratitude throughout your day.

Evaluate how you are using your resources and talents to glorify God. Are you offering your skills where you can have the greatest impact and serve others?

Review your finances and consider how you prioritize God in your spending. If you haven't done so yet, give him the first and best of everything, that way you will be fulfilling His mandate and positioning yourself at the centre of His will.

### **Reflection**

How am I offering the first and best of my life to God, in terms of time, talents, and resources? Are there areas where I need to make adjustments and prioritize God more intentionally?

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