

Top Gear

**The Offering and
the Heart**

Recap

Remember how the Lord your God **led you all the way in the wilderness** these forty years, **to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart**, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you. **Deuteronomy 8:2-5**

Recap

Meditation in Three Parts

Separate Yourself

Cleanse Yourself

Listen for God

**So far the disciplines we have learned
about have been things we do**

**This discipline is about what we are
willing to let go**

**This is also the FIRST discipline recorded
in the bible**

Abel's Offering

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. **The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour.** So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. **Genesis 4:2-5**

Abel's Offering

Cain's Offering- **In the course of time**
Cain brought **some** of the fruits of the
soil as an offering to the Lord. **vs 3**

Abel's Offering-And Abel also brought an
offering—**fat portions** from some of the
firstborn of his flock. **vs 4**

Abel's Offering

“No one, however, may dedicate the firstborn of an animal, since the **firstborn** already belongs to the Lord; whether an ox or a sheep, it is the Lord's.

Leviticus 27:26

The Lord also said to Moses, “I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman. The Levites are mine, for all the **firstborn** are mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set apart for myself every **firstborn** in Israel, whether human or animal. They are to be mine. I am the Lord.” **Numbers 3:11-13**

Law of First Fruits

In ancient Israel, the Law of Moses instituted the "tithe," also called the offering of the "first-fruits." "Tithe" is merely the Old English word for "tenth." Israel's tithe was an assessment of one-tenth of all produce. Usually this portion was rendered from the first harvested of the crop, hence the tithe of "first fruits." The proceeds were devoted to the maintenance of the **Temple**, and support of the **priesthood**, and the sustenance of the **poor** (Num. 18:24, Deut. 12:11, and 26:12)

Law of First Fruits

Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the **firstfruits** of all your crops; **Proverbs 3:9**

Bring the best of the **firstfruits** of your soil to the house of the Lord your God. **Exodus 23:19**

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the **first grain** you harvest.’”

Leviticus 23:9-10

Law of First Fruits

The concept of firstfruits is seen in the New Testament

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the **firstfruits** of the Spirit.. **Romans 8:23**

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:20

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as **firstfruits** to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. **2 Thessalonians 2:13**

Law of First Fruits

Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. **On the first day of every week**, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, **because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest**. If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? **1 Corinthians 9:10-12**

"Every **firstfruit** of the produce of the wine-vat and of the threshing-floor, of cattle and flocks, you will take and give as the **firstfruit** to your prophets; for they are your chief priests...If you prepare food, take and give the **firstfruit** according to the commandment. Likewise, when you open a jar of wine or oil, take and give the **firstfruit** to the prophets. Take also the **firstfruit** of money and clothing and every possession, as it may seem right to you, and give according to the commandment."

The Didache (teaching of the 12) 85AD

Jesus Teaching

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But **store up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus Teaching

Command those who are rich in this present world **not to be arrogant** nor to put **their hope in wealth**, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. **In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age**, so that they may take hold of the **life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Giving as a Spiritual Discipline (Abel's Offering)

**Our offering should be from the firstfruits
of our life**

**We give of our possessions so as to not allow
our possessions to control our hearts**

Our offering is an act of faith

Feed

Back

Abel's Offering

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By **faith** he was commended as **righteous**, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. **Hebrews 11:4**

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, **sin is crouching at your door**; it desires to have you, **but you must rule over it.**” **Genesis 4:6-7**