

## The Law Of First

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)*

### I. Introduction

*“But **seek first** the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33*

**Seek** : (zeteo, Gr.)= *“to make efforts to find; to aim at; to strive after; to be consumed by that search.”*

**Key thought to remember:** *“If you put God first, you will never be last!”*

**Seeking God’s things isn’t a homework assignment—it’s much more like a treasure map quest!**

### II. Key Areas to Put God First In

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

*“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil (natural), know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” Matthew 7:7-11*

**Note:** The one who asks, seeks or knocks and continues to do so, gets the desired result!

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.” Later she gave birth to his brother 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 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. “Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.” One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.” Genesis 4:1-8*

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

*“...**you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD.**” Exodus 13:11-12*

*“This is the share due the priests from the people...**You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine and oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep...**” Deuteronomy 18:3-5*

### III. The Six Guiding Principles of the “First”

How should I view my new approach to this?

✓ It's an \_\_\_\_\_

“**Honor the LORD** with your wealth and with **the firstfruits** of everything you produce. **Then** He will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.” **Proverbs 3:9-10 (NLT)**

✓ It's something that I must \_\_\_\_\_

“Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand...” **II Corinthians 9:5a**

✓ It's something I do as an action of \_\_\_\_\_

“(your generous gift), which you *had* previously promised, that it may be ready as a *matter of* generosity and not as a grudging obligation...” **II Corinthians 9:5b**

✓ It's a \_\_\_\_\_ that will be proportionate to my \_\_\_\_\_

“But this I (Paul) say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” **II Corinthians 9:6**

✓ It's an action that must be done with my \_\_\_\_\_

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver...” **II Corinthians 9:7**

✓ When I trust God in this, I can then \_\_\_\_\_

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work...Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality...” **II Corinthians 9:8-12 (NKJV)**

“God Hold us to that which drew us first, when the Cross was the attraction, and we wanted nothing else.” — Amy Carmichael, God's Missionary

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.” ---Dr. Martin Luther King

“Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the firstfruits of all who have died.”  
**Corinthians 15:20**

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## **Answer Key:**

### **II. Key Areas to Put God First In**

1. prayer and guidance
2. your natural increase

### **III. The Six Guiding Principles of the "First"**

1. honor to give to the Lord
2. plan for ahead of time
3. faith and obedience
4. reaping -----sowing
5. whole heart
6. expect my harvest!