



First Fruits

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

By Charlotte Carter

For years, I wrestled with these verses from Second Corinthians about giving. I doubted that God would supply all my needs, and so I couldn't give the first portion of my income to God. Like the Israelites, I had not learned to trust God to give us what we need tomorrow and to know that what we receive today is enough.

Serving on my church's budget committee helped me to resolve my skepticism about the Bible's promise to reward those who honor God by first-fruit giving. When one of the committee members suggested that our church tithe, all of my doubts surfaced. I felt that we should meet all our financial obligations first and then give to the needs of others if there was money left. Fortunately, the committee outvoted me, and we allotted the first tenth of our income to charitable causes.

At year's end, I was astonished! The church could meet all of its necessary expenses. We had served and loved God; in return, God had sent what was needed. This experience helped me to grasp the true meaning of tithing – the spiritual truth of depending on God to meet all our needs.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barn will be filled to overflowing."

- Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

Prayer:

Dear God, You are always faithful to us, and we want to be faithful to You. Help us to live in gratitude for all You have given us and to honor You by how we use those gifts. Amen.

Thought for the Day

How much of God's money do I keep for myself?

- NCYM Stewardship-Finance Committee



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