Part I - "Our Gift:

Making A Return On God's Blessings!"

1. Give Back An Offering From The Earth's Bounty & Blessings!

A. Give God You're Very Best!

B. Give Back To God First, Before Partaking Of Any!

"And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an <u>offering</u> of the <u>fruit of the ground</u> to the Lord. Abel also brought of the <u>firstborn of his flock and of their fat</u>. And the Lord respected Abel and his <u>offering</u>, but He did not respect Cain and his <u>offering</u>. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell."

Genesis 4:3-5

"And all the <u>tithe</u> of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord ... And concerning the <u>tithe</u> of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the <u>tenth one</u> shall be Holy to the Lord."

Leviticus 27:30 & 32

"Bring the <u>first-fruits</u> of our dough, our <u>offerings</u>, the fruit from all kinds of trees, the new wine and the oil, to the priests, <u>to the storerooms of the house of our God</u>; and to bring the <u>tithes</u> of our land to the Levites, for the Levites should receive the <u>tithes</u> in all our farming communities."

Nehemiah 10:37

2. Give Back One/Tenth (1/10) Of All You Inherit, Earn, Or Produce!

A. Give Back A Tithe From The First Fruits Of Your Blessings!

B. Keep Back Only What Belongs To You!

"So, Abraham brought back all the goods, and he also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people ... Then Melchizedek King of Salem brought out bread and wine; He was the Priest of God Most High. And He blessed him and said: 'Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Who is Possessor of Heaven and Earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.' And Abraham gave Him a <u>tithe</u> of All."

Genesis 14:16 & 18-20

3. Give An Extra 1% - A Tithe On Your Tithe As A Special Offering To The Lord!

A. Give In Excess As The Lord Has Already Blessed You In Excess!

B. Give So The Work Of God May Abound Beyond His Local Church To The Whole World!

"These are the Feasts of the Lord which you shall proclaim to be Holy Convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the Lord, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day, besides the Sabbaths of the Lord, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the Lord."

Leviticus 23:37-38

"Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: 'When you take from the children of Israel the <u>tithes</u> which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a <u>heave offering</u> of it to the Lord, a <u>tenth of the tithe</u>.' Thus, you shall also offer a <u>heave offering</u> to the Lord from all your tithes which you receive from the children of Israel, and you shall give the Lord's <u>heave offering</u> from it to Aaron the priest. Of all your gifts you shall offer up every <u>heave offering</u> due to the Lord, <u>From All The Best Of Them, The Consecrated Part Of Them</u>."

Numbers 18:25-26 & 28-29

4. Give Your Gift Freely, Willingly, And With Thanksgiving From A Grateful Heart! A. Give Sacrificially & Willingly For The Building Of God's Church & His Work On Earth! B. Give From A Willing Heart Filled With Joy & Thanksgiving!

"Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an <u>offering</u>. From everyone who gives it <u>willingly</u> <u>with his heart</u> you shall take My <u>offering</u> ... 'Take from among you an <u>offering</u> to the Lord. Whoever is of a <u>willing heart</u>, let him bring it as an <u>offering</u> to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze; ... The children of Israel brought a <u>Freewill Offering</u> to the Lord, all the men and women whose <u>Hearts Were Willing</u> to bring material for all kinds of work which the Lord, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done ...

... And they received from Moses all the <u>offering</u> which the children of Israel had brought for the <u>work of the service of making the sanctuary</u>. So, they continued bringing to him <u>freewill offerings</u> every morning ... And when you offer a <u>Sacrifice Of Thanksgiving</u> to the Lord, <u>Offer It Of Your Own Free Will</u> ... Then you shall keep the Festivals to the Lord your God with the tribute of a <u>Freewill Offering</u> from your hand, <u>which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you</u>."

Exodus 25:2, 35:5 & 29, 36:3, Leviticus 22:19, & Deuteronomy 16:10

"Offer to God Thanksgiving, and Pay Your Vows to the Most High!"

Psalms 50:14

"I Will Offer To You the Sacrifice Of Thanksgiving, and Will Call Upon the Name of the Lord!"

Psalms 116:17

"Therefore, I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and <u>Prepare Your</u> Generous Gift Beforehand, Which You Had Previously Promised, that it may be ready as A Matter Of Generosity And Not As A Grudging Obligation. But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So, Let Each One Give As He Purposes In His Heart, Not Grudgingly Or Of Necessity; For God Loves A Cheerful Giver. 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. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever! 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, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service <u>not only supplies the needs of the saints,</u> but <u>Also Is Abounding Through</u> Many Thanksgivings To God, While, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks Be To God For His Indescribable Gift!" 2nd Corinthians 9:5-15

Let Us Pray

"Oh Gracious, Loving, Creator & Father Of Us All, Who Constantly Supplies All Of Our Daily Needs, & Who Gives Us Everything Good Thing, Oh Savior, Redeemer, & Lord Jesus Christ, Who Has Blessed Us By Your Eternal Sacrifice, & Who Makes Constant Intercession For Us, Dearest Holy Spirit, Lover Of Our Souls, Great Comforter, Guide, Communicator, & Teacher, Continue To Abide Within Us!" "Oh, Help Us, The One, True, Triune Godhead, Giver Of All Life, Author Of Our Faith, Hope & Joy For Living, Giver Of Every Blessing, Help Us To Give Back To You All That We Have, Of Our Time, Our Talents, Our Tithes & Offerings!" "Oh, God Help Us, To Give Back To You Freely, Sacrificially, Joyfully, & Willingly, All That You Have Already Blessed Us With, In This Earthly Life. Oh God, Change Our Hearts, Our Minds, & Our Desires. Cause Us Oh God To Live In This World, But Be Not Consumed & Conformed To It, And Fit Us Now For Heaven, To Live Eternally With You There!"