

Benefits of Biblical Practice: Giving

The Beautiful Concept of First Fruits – Deuteronomy 26



Intro: What's so great about generosity?

I. The OT Concept of First Fruits

- a. A special offering, best explained in Deuteronomy 26:1-4
- b. A tradition that connects generosity to our identity as saved people (Deuteronomy 26:5-10)

II. How Paul Repurposes the Concept of “First Fruits” in the New Testament

- a. Jesus is the first fruits of multitudes who will also escape death (1 Cor 15:20-21)
- b. Jesus is the first fruits of multitudes who will reign over sin and opposition to God (1 Cor 15:25-28)
- c. The Holy Spirit('s presence) is the first fruit of what we hope to experience in heaven (Romans 8:23)

III. What we Get by Giving (According to the Theme of First Fruits)

- a. Living with generosity displays our distinctness and holiness as God's people (Deuteronomy 26:16-19)
- b. Living with generosity fosters an attitude of worship (Deuteronomy 26:11)
- c. Living with generosity demonstrates the beauty of Christian theology, to untheological people (1 Cor 15:20-21, 25-28, Romans 8:23)

Conclusion and Summary Statement: Connecting the beauty of this OT passage to the ways Paul expands the same concept, compels us to live as people of financial, social, and spiritual generosity (both for our own sake, and for the benefit of others)

Individual Study and Small Group Discussion Questions



Icebreaker: Tell about an act of generosity that you observed or benefitted from

1. As you read and heard about Deuteronomy 26, what are some beautiful aspects of what God's people are celebrating and remembering?
2. Reread Deuteronomy 26:5-10. How was this offering connected to God's faithfulness in the past? How might our generosity be connected to what God has done in our pasts?
3. Reread Deuteronomy 26:11. Contemplate and discuss how our generosity might be tied to our practice (and willingness) to worship God?
4. Establish/define how an Old Testament follower of God would have explained "first fruits."
5. Revisit the three main ways Paul uses the idea of "first fruits" in the New Testament (sermon outline section II). Discuss the encouragement we can draw from these Gospel powered ideas!
6. What would be your modern definition for generosity?
7. What are three things this week's sermon scriptures explain are benefits of living generously?
8. Share clear and specific ways how you can be more generous, to others (this should be more than just charitable financial giving).