

HOPeBOX

HONORING

GOD

WITH OUR
FIRST FRUITS

EAGLES
CHRISTIAN
FAMILY
CENTER

HOW TO OBTAIN A SUPERNATURAL HARVEST?

*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
(Galatians 6: 7 NIV)*

INTRODUCTION: *There are people who see the act of giving as a loss. Those who think in such form have a stingy mentality of misery and poverty. What the world teaches is that if you give, you are left with nothing, but it doesn't work that way in the kingdom of heaven. The first one to give was God, who gave his only son for the salvation of us all. In life, everyone is given seeds: Seeds of love, seeds of finance, etc. But where are we sowing them? If you want to obtain a supernatural harvest, practice the following laws:*

1. DECIDE AND SOW THE SEED. (John 12:24)

- Seeds in hand or stored up produce nothing. If the seed does not fall to the ground it will not produce anything.
- If you have many abilities, gifts and finances, but you don't sow them in other people, you won't be able to reap more than what you have. "I don't have much time to serve God," "It's not the time to tithe or give offering," etc. If you wait until the time is perfect, that time may never come, start now by faith.
- If you want to reap love you must sow love, if you want to be served you must serve, if you want finances you must release finances.

2. THE SEED MUST BE UNPROFITABLE. (John 12:24)

- We must let what we sow, die. You must learn to sow without convenience. If you sow love you should not wait for an immediate response, you must leave it, forget it, and do not complain or murmur.
- The seed must be of no use for you. You should not have personal beneficial ties to that seed. Some may have the idea of using the tithe for personal benefit, but it's incorrect to use that money that belongs to God.

3. SOW WHAT YOU DESIRE TO REAP. (Galatians 6: 7)

- Everything that we sow is what we are going to reap. The seed will always bear fruit according to its gender, if we want to receive a smile we must give smiles, if we want to receive love we must give love, if we want to receive money we must give money, etc.
- What do you want to reap in this year? A better relationship in your marriage? Better treatment from others? If you want to receive acceptance, affection, better opportunities, etc. Then start sowing everything you want to reap.

4. SOW ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE DESIRED HARVEST. (2 Cor. 9: 5-7)

- If you want to receive a lot of love, you must sow a lot of love. The sower knows that in order to produce a great harvest he must sow a large amount of seed.
- If what you are receiving in blessings is not what you expected, it's time to change the amount you sow. It's a law. It's not about cheating, stealing, lying or being dishonest in order to be more prosperous in finances. It's better to sow seeds in the right terrains and God will bless you more.
- What is given to God must be voluntary, not by obligation, it must be with gratitude and generosity so that the kingdom of God be expanded here on earth. (2 Corinth. 9:6-8) God doesn't need of us, it is us who must learn to give in order to receive.

5. SOW IN FERTILE LAND. (Matt. 13: 8)

- There are noble institutions such as the Boy Scouts and the Red Cross, organizations that conserve forests and animals; but there is no better ground than the one which sows the gospel in the hearts of people.
- The Word of God teaches that there exist different lands in which one can sow, land along the road, land in stony ground, between thorns and good soil. The book of Mark registers the parable of the rich young man, which says that when we sow in the kingdom of God on earth, we will receive a financial increase one hundred percent and, in the time present. (Mark 10: 29,30)

- The key is to invest in the kingdom of God, in the restoration of families, children, marriages, in carrying the message of hope so many can come out of depression. They can be free from addictions and enjoy an abundant life. Take advantage and sow in the kingdom with your first fruits.

CONCLUSION: Begin by receiving Christ as Lord and savior, so that you may reap abundantly.

PRAYER OF SALVATION: Lord Jesus I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for your forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart that you can be my personal Lord and Savior, amen.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

- What are you expecting to receive from God?
- What seeds do you have to start sowing?
- What has happened when you've sown in the wrong territories?
- What kind of harvest have you received when you've sown in the kingdom of God?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Share testimonies of how you've reaped after sowing.
- If you've yet to experience the blessing of sowing, begin now. Sow love, sow finances, sow time, just remember to do it on good terrain.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF HONOR

Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me forever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. (1 Sam. 2:30 KJV)

INTRODUCTION: Society has lost sight of what it is to honor. Many times, we lose many blessings because we don't know the principles of honoring. People receive prophecies that are not fulfilled because those prophecies are subject to honor. In the previous verse, God was speaking strongly to the priest Eli for dishonoring His name by not correcting his children and allowing them to sin in his holy temple. Because of dishonor, the priesthood of Eli was cut off. Today we will learn what honor is and how we can honor God.

- 1. WHAT DOES HONOR MEAN?** Honor is to value, esteem, appreciate or hold as precious, it is holding someone as worthy and loved. When we tell the father "honored be your name," we are telling God "precious is your name, valuable, esteemed, I love your name."
- 2. WHAT IS DISHONOR?** It's everything contrary. It is to take the value out of something or someone, to treat as common and ordinary. When we value something, we take care of it. For example: We don't leave a precious jewel thrown just anywhere, it is kept safe in a jewelry box because it is valuable.

3. HOW CAN WE HONOR GOD?

- **Obedience: (Malachi 1:6-9)** We honor God every time we obey. It's not about saying yes to everything, it's about obeying when it's time to obey: When He asks us to stop practicing a sin and we keep doing it, we don't honor Him. When He tells us to go to a retreat, to church, HOP, serve, speak to others about Christ, forgive, to stop criticizing and cursing and we do it, then we honor God.
- **Praise and worship: (Psalms 150:1-6)** We honor God when we praise and worship Him with our singing and our actions. When we recognize who He is and what He does for us. For example: "God, you are immense, you are good, wonderful, merciful and powerful! Value the time of praise in church, come with thanksgiving and a willingness to worship Him.
- **With our words: (Ecc. 5:4-5)** *Learn* to honor God with words. When you make promises to God, fulfill what you promise. A person who fails to deliver what he promises, loses value with others. We dishonor God when we promise Him something and then we don't fulfill it (such as promising to pray, tithe, fast, forgive, and promising to serve Him).

We also dishonor when we criticize, curse and hurt others.

- **With our thoughts:** We can say many things to the contrary, but we can dishonor God with our thoughts. Example: *Jesus knew that the Pharisees dishonored him with his thoughts.* We must be careful with what we think. We can show holiness on the outside, but there may be sin in our thoughts.
- **Excellence:** God should not be given the worst and useless. Excellence costs three things: Time, money and work. Example, one may say: “If I have time, I will pray!” “If I have time, I will serve!” “First, I’ll go to the movies or play a game and then I’ll go to church”, etc. Put God in first place in everything you do, because when you honor Him, He will honor you.
- **Service: (Jn. 12:26)** We honor God when we put our gifts and abilities at His service, expecting nothing in return, with a grateful heart for what He has done in our lives: *serve in your HOP, in the church as ushers, with the children, with the cleaning, in the kitchen, as a leader, host, etc.*
- **Material goods:** Giving Him the best of our material goods, our best offering (according to our possibilities). Give Him the best in our possession, not the least valuable and wrinkled bill. **(Prov. 3:9-10)** *In bringing our goods and first fruits.* The first fruit demonstrates that God

is our priority, God multiplies the rest. Then your time, money and all your resources will abound.

CONCLUSION: *Honor God because He wants to honor you. Start honoring God this week with your obedience, worship, words, thoughts, excellence, service and with your material goods. If you have never accepted his son Jesus Christ as Lord of your life, honor Him by opening the door of your heart:*

SAVING PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today, I repent and ask for your forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart, so that you may be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.*

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

- In what ways have you honored God?
- In what ways have you dishonored Him?
- What do you need to start doing to honor him completely?

PRACTICE APPLICATION:

If you had not been honoring God, ask Him for forgiveness and start doing so in the ways learned today.

HONORING GOD WITH OUR FIRSTFRUITS

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops (Proverbs 3:9 NIV)

INTRODUCTION: *Honor has been lost within and outside of the church, between parents and children. Pastors are also not honored, etc.*

- WHAT IS HONOR:** It is respect, reverence, to value, esteem, to consider something precious. When a person is honored, they are valued.
 - Honor is a highly paid merchandise or currency in the kingdom, that is, God rewards it, just as He rewards faithfulness.
 - To honor is a sign of fear and respect for God.
 - Honor must be a revelation in us. It must be understood, because we won't value what we do not understand, and much less will we practice it.
 - The principle of honoring is to put God first. When we dishonor God, we are not valuing Him.
 - People are honored everywhere except in their home. Dishonor closed the flow of God in Christ, though having so much power, He could only do a few miracles in the area. When you don't discern what someone has from God, you will dishonor him, you are not valuing that person. Jesus was seen as a simple carpenter, so the people around Him did not honor him. (*Mark 6: 4-5*)
- FIRSTFRUITS: (Proverbs 3: 9)**
 - Refers to the practice of giving for God's use, the **first and best portion of the harvest**. In this case they are the firstfruits of the year that we offer to God to honor Him. Firstfruits is the first of our entries of the year. For example: it may be giving God the **first week of pay, the first check, the first business, the first sale, etc.**
 - With our firstfruits we recognize that everything belongs to God and that everything we have; we've received from His hand; in this way we are honoring Him.
 - Bringing the firstfruits to God means to honor him, love Him, and if we love Him, we give him priority.

- Our firstfruits are the way to ensure that we will have a good harvest throughout the year. God promises to bless and honor us when we honor Him.
- When you give the firstfruits to God, you give them with a sacrificial heart; when you do not give the firstfruits or put God first, it means you are giving out of convenience. "This is what I can give" "I can't give more" and what isn't a sacrifice for you, neither is it for God.
- Firstfruits are a testimony.
- Firstfruits are an act of worship.
- Firstfruits are an act of honor to God.
- Firstfruits are an act of trusting God.
- Firstfruits are an act of celebration for the Lord. (*Deuteronomy 26: 5-11*)

3. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE BRING OUR FIRSTFRUITS?

- God sanctifies everything we have left for the rest of the year.
- God multiplies it, because firstfruits have redeeming value (He expands and multiplies them).
- The curses of poverty and lack are broken.
- There's unusual increase and prosperity. When you give your firstfruits, God can, in eternity, go back to the beginning and restore His blessing, prosperity, favor and His increase in your life.

CONCLUSION: When you obey God, He must honor His Word, because if God is asking and demanding the fruit; then, what do you think He has in mind for you? God has something you have not received. The Bible says: Honor God! It's written throughout all Scripture.

God is looking for the firstfruits, not the first seed. You will never win God in giving, but when you start giving to God on a higher level, God will make you receive at a higher level.

PRAYER OF SALVATION: Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for your forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart to be my personal Lord and Savior, amen.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS

- Have you given God the best?
- Have you only given God an offering or the firstfruits?
- What blessings have you seen in giving your firstfruits?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- ▶ Pray to God so that you can receive the revelation of the firstfruits and prepare your heart to give your best to God.



There is a place for you