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FIRST FRUIT GIVING

"For if the firstfruit [be] holy, the lump [is] also holy: and if the root [be] holy, so [are] the branches" – Romans 11:16

The principle of the first is of critical importance, from cover to cover in the scriptures. The first commandment states, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me", which is to keep God first. There is the firstborn who inherits the blessings bestowed on their father, and whom the lineage is passed down through. Even tragedy has struck through the principal of the first, where firstborn children have been attacked in numerous cases. There are the firstfruits of the spirit (Rom. 8:23) and the firstfruits of His new covenant (James 1:18). In the covenant established through Christ we are instructed to seek the Kingdom of God and His

"If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes!" (Mark 9:23)



We have embarked upon the year 2007 and what promises to be The Year of Possibilities. We have now entered a perfect moment with God and there will be a manifestation of that which has been promised and reserved for this generation.

The time has come for the fulfillment of that which angels and holy men longed to see.

The hour has finally arrived in which the distant hope of the ages will manifest into the beautiful reality of the present. This year will be the year wherein God demonstrates, displays and delineates Himself as God and God alone. This He will do in and through the lives of those who have been faithful. ARE YOU READY FOR THE YEAR OF POSSIBILITIES?

The Scriptures makes reference to a revelation of God's goodness in history that transcends our human faculties. This move of God will be so far beyond our cognitive abilities that Paul in bewilderment is left with only one option and that is to pen the following words:

"Eye hath not seen, not ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (1st Corinthians 2:9)

2007 will prove to be the year in which God literally blows your mind.

As you prepare to journey through this great and

righteousness first, that we may receive all that we need from Him. The giving of firstfruits is another dimension of this Kingdom principle.

When it comes to giving throughout the church, tithes and offerings are most commonly understood. For some, the giving of firstfruits is unheard of, and for many it is an outdated practice found in the Old Testament and in agricultural societies. For others still, it is something that resonates with their spirits, yet it is not fully understood.

For the mature believer, the giving of firstfruits is a spiritual act, and keeps the reciprocal circle of God's order intact. Increase and promotion are from God: both have a spiritual root and manifest physically. When receiving this physical gift that has a spiritual root, we honour the true source through the giving of firstfruits: this sanctifies the initial blossom, and flows down on all that follows it.

The giving of firstfruits is not from a materialist logic, but from a spiritual understanding. There are many things about the Kingdom that confound logic, such as 'the peace that surpasses all understanding', 'to be born again', 'that God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son', and 'that Christ chose not to pass the cup of the crucifixion'.

In Deuteronomy 18:1-5, we find the origin and the purpose of the firstfruits. In this passage, they are described as an offering used

awesome Year of Possibilities, there are three very important things that I would counsel you to do:

1. **Position Yourself:** This year will prove to be a time of both placement as well as displacement. Many will miss their place for a variety of reasons, while others will finally discover the soil in which we were designed to be planted. Your placement, which is another way of referring to where you belong in life, is critical to your success. In fact true growth can only take place where things have been rightly planted. Once you are properly positioned then expect to be like a tree planted by rivers of water--and expect to bring forth your fruit because this is your season; and remember that whatsoever you do, from the right place, will prosper, (Psalm 1:3).
2. **Prepare Your Mind:** In 2007 possessing a strong and stable mind will be of the utmost importance. More than ever the mental events that take place in the hidden cavern of your thoughts will determine the measure of your success. The mind-field will be the place where the battle will rage in 2007. To win you must possess a mental disposition that dictates the power of possibilities to every thing that you do. Your outlook on life must be one of extreme optimism, knowing that the God who you serve will only cause you to triumph. In your mind failure cannot be an option; obstacles must be overlooked and victory must be grasped before it will ever be realized. Win in your head before you win with your hands. Finally, in the arena of your mind be sure to seal every entrance from the onslaught of that which is negative. Play the game of life on the field of the positivist. With this type of mind you will never be defeated irrespective of the many challenges thrown in your path.
3. **Practice Positive Speech:** The words which come from your mouth in 2007 will not only determine the measure of your life but the quality of your life as well. You must desire to have the very best that life has to offer. If this is to happen your mouth must be conditioned to speak words that are in line with this. Having a prepared mind will release a powerful mouth filled with the words of all possibilities; and know this fact --- you will have what you say. Now, begin at the head of this year to discipline yourself to speak words which bring life's best into your environment. Words that stimulate purpose and hasten destiny. Words that impregnate your environment with life while at the same time destroying the presence of death, (Proverbs 18:21).

to support the priests, who were known as the Levites. This provision came from the first and the best of the annual increase. The Levites were those that God had chosen out of the tribes of Israel to minister to the people of God in His name.

We no longer have tribes chosen by God that one is born into, but we now have the body of Christ that one joins through being born again. While the functions that people served in the temple was determined by tribe, this is now determined through the spiritual giftings given through the Holy Spirit. We no longer have a tribe of Levites that serve as priests, but we have those born again into the body with the gifting for ministry. They, like the Levites of the Old Testament, are given the authority to minister to the people of God in His name.

Our firstfruits are no longer in the form of spices, corn, wine and oil, nor are they oxen or sheep. Our annual increase now comes from paycheques, contracts, and businesses; rather than having agricultural wealth, we now accumulate finances.

While the form of our provision has changed, the principles remain intact and unchanged. The people of God were dependent on Him for increase in an agricultural society, and we remain dependent upon Him in this post-industrial era. We still receive provision to meet our needs from Him, and we honour God as our source and our provider through many aspects of our relationship with Him, including firstfruits, tithes

Now, arm yourself with the confidence of God deep within your spirit and begin to march boldly into the greatest year of your existence. This is the time for you to experience all that God has for your life. This year is your perfect moment with God. Don't miss it!

Live in the place of possibilities!

Pastor Orim M. Meikle
Senior Pastor

EDITOR'S DESK

PAVED AND WIDE OPEN

What is it about the first of the year which ushers in a mood where we collectively experience the poignant sensations of new resolve intertwined with the weightiness of responsibility for setting goals and achieving them? It is a time when the sounds of promptings we have heard all year long, suddenly rise to a deafening volume delivering an unmistakable reminder that priorities we have avoided by averting our eyes are now staring us down and they demand attention.

The items on the recurring list, I'm convinced are areas of our selves awaiting discovery with new levels to explore. They represent the seeds of expectations, purpose and potential long established unbeknownst to us, waiting to be met. They are revelations, glimpses of places that need to be healed and paths that will lead to that healing.

There are many examples that we dismiss regularly because we don't understand. They are deceptively ordinary undertakings but will have far greater impact than we realize should we summon the discipline to pursue. Examples include: more regular and consistent times alone with God; submitting to the discipline of fasting more often; begin or complete a project waylaid long ago by a distracted mind; discard habits or relationships reminiscent of a time gone by; give more love with a generous heart to those we know as well as those we don't; invest more time with our families; demonstrate more commitment to our work; implement and stick to a plan for financial success; continue along a path of formal education and broaden our horizons or learn simply for the rewarding experience that learning brings. Or possibly our assignment this year could be to include more time to relax - to find a way to balance the mantle of purpose draped gently about our shoulders with an attitude that exudes the achievement of emotional milestones.

and offerings.

In Matthew 23:23, Christ offers an insight, that those who gave their offerings, yet missed what he called "the weightier matters of the law" which are "judgment, mercy, and faith". He then continues saying that neither are to be left undone.

As we usher in 2007, we can look back and recognize that God has been faithful to His word – that He is Jehovah-Jireh, our provider. Let us step into the New Year, walking in the spirit, and sanctifying all that He has entrusted us with through presenting the firstfruits of the great blessings that He has bestowed upon us, "not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver" (Corinthians 9:7).

Chris Penrose

Quick Links...

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- [Rhema's "2007 The Year of Possibilities" Calendar](#)
- [Rhema's Worship Schedule](#)
- [Daily Bread With Pastor Orim M. Meikle](#)
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Pondering the possibilities produces invigorating wafts of renewed potential and new opportunities that are carried through the air in these early days when the page of the calendar has been freshly turned. Anticipate with excitement and then vigorously pursue the prospect of another year beckoning like a familiar road now once again freshly paved, wide open and waiting.

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2007 THE YEAR OF POSSIBILITIES

2007, the number seven is God's perfect number. We ourselves are far from perfection, but we must keep in mind that in our imperfectness, we are still commissioned more than ever to reach the lost for his Kingdom, and establish His words in the earth.

How you start this New Year will determine your walk with God. It will be a journey of indecisions; there will be tests to try your faith, and struggles that will question your identity of who you are in these last and evil days. Yet, will it stop you from propelling into the Possibilities?

If you know who you are in Christ, and know that He is with you, He is for you, and He is in you then you can do anything! Let the enemy know that we are taking it all in 2007! And nothing will stop us!

Position of power and ownership.

Occupy till He comes.

Subdue all nations for Christ.

Sanctify our hearts for his purpose.

Ignite the passion for our dreams again.

Build the characteristics of God stronger than ever before.

Illuminate the light of God to penetrate the darkness.

Looking to God for our source of strength and direction.

In all our ways we will acknowledge You.

Tried in the fire but we are victorious.

Invade our lives with your presence.

Extract everything that is not like You.

Success comes only through You.

12 months, 365 days, 52 weeks of **POSSIBILITIES!**
Is it in YOU?

Opal Berry-Veira

Participate: TKC Newsletter

WRITERS: Words "Change and Affect Lives."

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