

Pastor Ron Case
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“Faith & Firstfruits”

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

“The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.” (Revelation 3:21)

Matter of First Importance

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 – (3) “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,”

Seeds of Skepticism

1 Corinthians 15:12-14 – (12) “Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (13) But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. (14) And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain *and your faith is in vain.*”

The New Order

Romans 6:4-5 – (4) “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

Revelation 1:17-18 – (17) “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, ‘Fear not, I am the first and the last, (18) and the living one.

I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

1 Corinthians 15:23 – “But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”

All who are in Jesus are a firstfruits offering to God

Firstfruits Faith Confession

Deuteronomy 26:1-10 – (1) “When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, (2) you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. (3) And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ (4) Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. (5) And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. (6) And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. (7) Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. (8) And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. (9) And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. (10) And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God.”

Proverbs 3:9-10 – (9) “Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; (10) then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.”

Firstfruits is a tribute faith offers to God

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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