



SERMON NOTES

September 9, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett

First Things First: "Your First and Finest"
[John 10:10, John 10:10, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4]

5 Biblical truths about "your first and finest":

1. **God is** _____. [Colossians 1:15-17; Matthew 6:33]
2. **God** _____ **and** _____ **first**. [Romans 5:8; John 3:16]
3. **Money** _____ **who has the** _____ **of our heart**. [Luke 16:10-14]
4. **We** _____ **to the Gospel by** _____ **our "first and finest"**. [Genesis 4:1-4]
5. **Giving God your first and finest leads to** _____ **and** _____ .
[Malachi 3:6-12]

Next Step Questions:

- Have you received Jesus as God's first and finest for you?
- Are you experiencing freedom and abundant life by giving your first and finest to God?
- Will you step out in faith and take the 90-day giving challenge?
www.pathwayvb.com/faith



PATHWAY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Note: 1, 6-7 are general questions asked at Pathway weekly.

1. How is God at work in and around your life?
2. Pathway's vision is: "to be the church: restoring, raising up, and reaching out". Pastor Brian shared about the upcoming baptisms and the launch of Pathway Espanol. What are other ways you see our vision unfolding?
3. Read John 10:10 and Matthew 6:31-32. How does money get weaponized by the enemy to rob us of the abundant life Jesus has for us?
4. If Jesus talked about money 25% of the time and the Bible references it more than 2,300 times, why do we avoid it in our discipleship?
5. Pastor Brian shared 5 Biblical truths about "your first and finest" in the message. These 5 truths (and the references) are a core theology of giving at Pathway. Please review them and discuss them openly and honest as a group:
 1. **God is first**. [Colossians 1:15-17; Matthew 6:33]
 2. **God loves and gives first**. [Romans 5:8; John 3:16]
 3. **Money reveals who has the "wheel" of our heart**. [Luke 16:10-14]
 4. **We respond to the Gospel by giving our "first and finest"**. [Genesis 4:1-4]
 5. **Giving God your first and finest leads to freedom and abundant life**. [Malachi 3:6-12]
6. How did you answer the "next step questions" from the message?
 - Have you received Jesus as God's first and finest for you?
 - Are you experiencing freedom and abundant life by giving your first and finest to God?
 - Will you step out in faith and take the 90-day giving challenge?
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7. How can we pray for you and support you this week?

Note for life group leaders: if you need additional support or resources due to the depth of the verses and topics covered, don't hesitate to reach out: zorom@pathwayvb.com



August 18-24, 2024

FINANCIALS

- \$28,724 up 14.9% to budget for W/E 8/31/24
- \$1,222,393 down 6.4% to budget for Year to Date
- -\$63,435 Net Revenue after including other income through July 2024
 - (Typically, Summer months are lower giving, creating a higher negative net revenue).
- \$157,828 for Missions or 13.9% of General Giving YTD through July 2024

CONNECT

Total Worship Attendance: 1090

TWC Attendance Sunday: 530

Online: 131

Kids Sunday: 114

Students: 315

GROW

Baptisms (YTD): 44

Discipleship Groups: 66

Salvations (YTD): 76

SERVE

People Fed at Food Pantry: 96

Weekly Volunteers: 135