This year as a demonstration of our spiritual growth and trust, and as a sign that God has first claim on our lives, we are asking all Partners to contribute to **First Fruits Weekend on January 18-19, 2020.**

Our First Fruits offering is to consist of at least one week's income. Persons who only receive one check per month are asked to divide that check by four and contribute one week's income. On First Fruits Weekend, those who contribute a week's income will be asked to bring those offerings and lay them on the altar. Before and after First Fruits Weekend on January 18-19, 2020, we will follow our usual procedure of giving tithes and offerings.

Let's prepare spiritually and financially for the expression of love we will show on First Fruits Weekend. Remember, how we use what is in our hands indicates what is happening in our hearts.

In the Grip of God's Grace,
Rev. Dr. John R. Faison, Sr.
Senior Pastor

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

JANUARY 18-19
FIRST FRUITS WEEKEND
SACRIFICE ONE WEEK'S INCOME

JANUARY 2-31
JOIN US IN FASTING AND PRAYER
DOWNLOAD THE BROCHURE AT
THEGROVENASH.ORG

NASHVILLE CAMPUS
1415 Horton Ave.
Nashville, TN

FRANKLIN CAMPUS
633 Frazier Dr
Franklin, TN

THEGROVENASH.ORG

THE GROVE

FIRST FRUITS WEEKEND

JANUARY 18-19, 2020
WATSON GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

GREETINGS TO THE GROVE!

Jesus Christ destroys strongholds, demolishes yokes, and empowers us to cross over into new seasons of living. That same Christ also expects and enables us to have a significant Kingdom focus. A Kingdom focus always seeks to place God as the highest priority in our lives. That focus reveals itself through our giving and generosity.

The foundation of our faith is based upon love that gives generously. John 3:16 (NLT) has become the standard bearer of our faith—"For this is how God loved the world: He GAVE His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life."

What are our standards for giving? In all that we do, our standard should be *Scripture.*

THE TITHE

The Bible teaches the tithe (10% of all that we have or the 1st dime out of every dollar) as the minimum expression of worship and praise to our Almighty and Gracious God. Therefore, we shall continue to emphasize the tithe as the minimum foundation gift for followers of Jesus Christ. (Leviticus 27:30-33; Deuteronomy 14:22-29; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 23:23)

OFFERINGS

The Bible also teaches and commends offerings beyond the tithe as appropriate expressions of worship and praise to our Gracious and Almighty God. Therefore, we shall continue to receive various offerings beyond the tithe as expressions of generosity. (Luke 19:1-10; Acts 2:43-47; Acts 4:32-37)

This year we are commending for your prayerful consideration and commitment to First Fruit offerings. The first offering mentioned in the Bible is found in Genesis 4:1-7.

In the Genesis account, Cain and Abel brought offerings of worship to God. Cain, a farmer, brought an offering from the fruit of the ground to God. Abel, a shepherd, bought an offing that consisted of the firstlings of the flock. God had greater regard and respect for the offering of Abel than He did for the offering of Cain. *Why?*

The firstlings of the flock represented his regard for God as deserving the first of what he had. The firstlings of the flock meant that God was Abel's first love and that God occupied first place in his heart.

First Fruits represent at least four truths:

1. First Fruits represent the faithful provision of God. We cannot give anything unless God has first provided and given to us.

2. First Fruits represent our love and regard for God as our highest love and first choice. We give our highest and best to those who have first claim upon and first place in our hearts and lives.

3. First Fruits are acts of faith. When we give God the first, we express our faith that God will continue to take care of us. When we give God the first, we express our faith that God will not let us suffer any shortfalls, and that God will continue to supply what we need to meet our obligations.

4. First Fruits also indicate that God can trust us with more. We can never beat God giving. We can never out give God. When we give God the first fruits, we demonstrate to God that we can be trusted with abundance, because we will always keep God as our first love.

Adapted from work by Rev. William Watley, Ph.D.