Rock Point Church

Bill Bush | 11.8.26

Worship is recognizing God's worth through adoration, surrender, and obedience. It's a spiritual weapon that defeats idols by loving God more, not simply loving them less.

Big Idea: Love gives.

American Expressions: Me first
Biblical Expressions: God first

Genesis 4:3-8 (NLT)

3 When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his
crops as a gift to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought a gift—the best
portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted
Abel and his gift, 5 but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This
made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

6 “Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked Cain. “Why do you look
so dejected? 7 You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if
you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at
the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its
master.”

8 One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

If God is first in my heart, where does that show up in my giving?

Let God use my generosity in my giving.

American Expressions: Get more
Biblical Expressions: Give more

2 Corinthians 8:1-9 (NLT)

1 Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. 2 They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

3 For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. 4 They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. 5 They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

6 So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. 7 Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

8 I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

9 You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

Raise your standard of giving, not just your standard of living.

Who could experience God's love if I worshipped him with my first and best?

Priority - Give first
Percentage - Give intentionally
Progressing - Keep going

GROUPS QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message, and why?
2. What makes the mindset of "me first" so natural in our culture, and why is putting God first in our finances so challenging?
3. Read Genesis 4:3–7 and Hebrews 11:4. What was the fundamental difference in heart and faith between Abel's offering and Cain's offering?
4. Read Deuteronomy 14:23. How does the discipline of giving your first and best train your heart to revere and trust God?
5. Why is financial holding back often an indicator of a deeper, unseen spiritual disconnect in our relationship with God?
6. How does giving our lives to God completely change how we view our possessions?

7. Read 2 Corinthians 8:8–9 and John 3:16. How does reflecting on Christ's ultimate generosity toward us motivate our own generosity toward others?
8. When you consider the call to raise your standard of giving rather than just your standard of living, what fears or hesitations surface for you?
9. If God is first in your heart, where does that tangibly show up in your giving right now?
10. What is one practical step you can take this week to begin giving God your first and best, whether through prioritizing your giving, committing to an intentional percentage, or growing beyond where you currently are?