



“God, what is it You want to do through me?”

Putting God First

“Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn, or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude.” ~Dennis Waitley

“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.” ~Proverbs 3:9

When I was growing up, my parents entertained frequently in our home. Some of our guests were noteworthy theologians and scholars, but most were seminary students or ordinary folks from the community. In all cases, we were taught to treat our guests with respect by giving them the first plate served. My partner and I continue that practice in our home.

We also follow the practice of my parents to give God the first portion of our income. We set aside our proportional gift to the church for God’s work before we decide what our disposable income will be – before we pay for local memberships or purchase items for our home or plan a vacation. Our gift to God comes off the top of our income, not after we see what’s left. Because our gift is withdrawn from our bank automatically, we can rejoice that our support for God’s mission can go to work expeditiously, without waiting for us to decide to write a check. God gets the first serving, not the leftovers!

Real happiness comes when we put God first in our lives. We live

every minute in gratitude to God, and feel blessed when we respond in kind to God's love for us.

Prayer: Gracious God, help us to open our hands and our hearts to support your work in the world. Give us the will to serve you first, and give us joy when we risk courageous giving.

By Faith Ferré



*Please join the inspiration of our Daily Devotionals for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter on the theme **Full to the Brim**. Please email your reflection, prayer, or other contribution to MCCDC Senior Pastor Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson at RevDwayne@mccdc.com.*

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