

# JAMES

## Lesson 8: Seven Kinds of Firstfruits

3 January 2020

### GOD'S CLEAR AND UNMISTAKABLE WILL

James 1:18	It is God's will to beget us (to give us a new birth; a new life) with the word of truth.
2 Peter 3:9	It is not God's will that anybody perish, but that all should repent.
2 Timothy 2:4	It is God's will for all men to be saved and to know the truth.
Ezekiel 18:23, 32	God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. His desire is that we repent and live.

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James 1:18 says that God desires to beget us with the word of truth so that we can be a kind of firstfruits. There are seven places in the New Testament where various kinds of firstfruits are mentioned.

### **1. CHRIST IS THE FIRSTFRUITS IN RESURRECTION. (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)**

Christ is the first one to be resurrected FROM the dead.

- Jesus was the first to be raised incorruptible; never to die again.
    - Others were raised in incorruption, to die again:
      - 2 Kings 13:21 the dead man that touched Elisha's bones.
      - Luke 7:11-15 the widow of Nain's son.
      - Mark 5:38-43 Jairus' daughter.
      - John 11:43-44 Lazarus.
      - Acts 20:9-12 Eutychus.
  - Christ is the firstfruits. After Him, others will follow **at His coming** (1 Cor. 15:23). When he comes for His own, the dead in Christ shall rise (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). They will be resurrected from the dead into eternal life.
  - Jesus' death and resurrection was accomplished by His own power (John 10:17-18).
    - No ordinary man could do that (Ecclesiastes 8:8, Revelation 9:6).
  - Jesus' death destroyed the Devil's power to keep people in bondage through fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15).
  - The Jew doesn't believe in the first resurrection unto life eternal. They only believe in a general resurrection unto judgment (John 11:24, Daniel 12:2).
    - There is a general resurrection, but it's a thousand years after the first resurrection (Revelation 20:4-6)
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### **2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE FIRSTFRUITS OF EVERYTHING GOD PLANS TO GIVE US (Romans 8:22-23)**

- We presently have the Holy Spirit. He is the first part of all that God has laid up for us in eternity.
  - The Holy Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14). He is the promise that God has much more to give.
    - A new body (paid for, but not yet redeemed).
    - A place in Heaven (John 14:2). A promised possession, but God hasn't taken us there yet.
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### **3. BORN-AGAIN BELIEVERS ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS OF GOD'S CREATURES (James 1:18)**

- There had never been a creature like the born-again believer. We are an entirely new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:10, 15, Galatians 6:15).
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### **4. JESUS CHRIST WILL BE THE FIRSTFRUIT OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL, MAKING THEM HOLY (Romans 11:16)**

- Anything that has Jesus Christ as the Root will be holy.
  - The Church is holy because Christ is the firstfruits of the Church.
  - When Jesus Christ becomes the recognized head of the nation of Israel, that entire nation will be made holy.
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### **5. THE 144,000 ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THE REDEEMED OF THE EARTH DURING THE TRIBULATION (Revelation 14:4).**

- 144,000 virgin male Jews will be the first to be joined to the firstfruits (Jesus Christ) during the Tribulation.
  - Notice:
    - The Church is joined to the firstfruits today.
    - The 144,000 are joined to the firstfruits in the Tribulation.
    - The nation of Israel will be joined to the firstfruits in the Millennium.
    - In each case, Jesus Christ is the holy root from which the branches live and are holy.
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### **6. THE FIRST MAN SAVED IN A REGION IS REFERRED TO AS THE FIRSTFRUITS (1 Corinthians 16:5)**

- The first person saved in any new missions area can be called the firstfruits.
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### **7. THE FIRST FAMILY SAVED IN A REGION IS CALLED THE FIRSTFRUITS (1 Corinthians 16:15)**

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