



Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.

OCTOBER 16, 2021

Lee Young Chan put God First

Lee Young Chan decided to put God first in his life. What can we learn from his story today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

Lee was baptised in South Korea when he was 17 years old, but it took another few years before he fully understood the transformative power of being a faithful steward. After finishing college, he decided to put God first from the moment he was offered a job.

Turning down job opportunities in order to faithfully keep the Sabbath, he eventually found work as a delivery man. Lee was certain God would provide everything he needed. This certainty didn't come from a bargain where God will bless only if Lee continued to be faithful. Rather Lee believed he should be faithful with his tithes and offerings precisely because God had already blessed him with those resources.

Putting God first in tithes and offerings was an acknowledgment of God's providence and blessings.

When Lee eventually had a family of his own, God provided a comfortable house and a car that he now uses for church ministry. Lee attributes all these blessings to earnest prayer.

If God is faithful to those who are NOT faithful to Him, imagine how much more faithful He is to

those who follow and devote their lives to Him! Lee's story is a reminder that when we dedicate our lives to putting God first, even the sacrifices bring meaning and learning. Like the prophet Daniel, it is possible to dedicate your life at a young age and keep true to that commitment.

Ellen White put it this way: "Every good thing of earth was placed here by the bountiful hand of God as an expression of His love to man. The poor are His, and the cause of religion is His. The gold and the silver are the Lord's; and He could rain them from heaven if He chose. But instead of this He has made man His steward, entrusting him with means, not to be hoarded, but to be used in benefiting others. He thus makes man the medium through which to distribute His blessings on earth. God planned the system of beneficence, in order that man might become like his Creator, benevolent and unselfish in character, and finally be a partaker with Christ of the eternal, glorious reward" (Counsels on Stewardship, page 15).

Lee put God first throughout his adult life. His determination inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.