

November 4, 2018
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
SPENT : What's So Important About The Harvest?
WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT TITHING.
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Honor The Lord
Proverbs 3:9-10

*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

The Year of the LORD's Favor
Isaiah 61:1-7

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted**, to
proclaim **freedom for the captives** and release from darkness for the prisoners² to proclaim the
year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to **comfort all who mourn**,³ and
provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a **crown of beauty instead of ashes,**
the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.
⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and **restore the places long devastated**; they will renew
the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.⁵ Strangers will shepherd your flocks;
foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.⁶ And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will
be named ministers of our God. **You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches**
you will boast.⁷ Instead of your shame you will receive a **double portion, and instead of**
disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a **double portion in**
your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.*

Understanding Tithing: The starting place of all generosity is the understanding that you are God's greatest treasure and He is meant to be yours.

- All material generosity is an overflow of this understanding.
- **Proverbs 3:9 "Honor the Lord"**
 - Here the gift follows the honor that is based in relationship.
 - Financial generosity is one mirror of your relationship with God.

Favor: God's word is abundantly clear that **sacrificial generosity** releases God's "deeper favor" upon your life.

- **Questions:** Are there levels of God's favor?
 - Faith in Christ gives us eternal accessibility to all of God's inheritance, but many believers fail to claim what has been given unto them.
 - Eph 1:18 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...*

Isaiah 61:1-7 Gives a clear and much larger picture as to what it looks like to walk in the deep favor of God.

- Mending of broken hearts.
- Freedom for captives.
- Comfort for those who mourn.
- Beauty and praise instead of ashes and mourning.
- Restoration of things devastated.
- Passive Income from sources outside your labor.
- Double portion. **Often means honor as well as provision.*
- Everlasting joy.

Question: Are you ready for deeper favor, or will you continue to live off the thin margins and table scraps of blessing?

Food For The Journey: Use these questions for going deeper in one of our community groups or in deeper study and reflection.

1. Pastor Adam said that the starting place of all financial generosity is understanding that we are God's greatest treasure and He is ours. How does this change your way of thinking about tithing if at all?
2. Tithing is one mirror of our relationship with God. Would you say that your sacrificial financial giving mirrors your heart for God? Why?
3. Pastor Adam said that financial generosity releases a deeper favor upon us. What do you think about the concept of levels of God's favor?
4. Do you believe that if you give tithes and offerings that you will be blessed financially?
5. What part of Isaiah 61's promises of favor is the most meaningful to you?