

The Searching I Fruit of Faith I 5.24.26

Key Outcomes

Pastor taught that **faith produces tangible results** through covenant obedience, particularly in giving and stewardship. The church is challenged to operate as the bride of Christ—reflecting His power and provision rather than appearing "raggedy" despite having the most powerful husband. Members are called to honor God through tithing and offerings as a response to His blessings, not as obligation, unlocking covenant benefits of provision, protection, and overflow.

1 2 3

Core Teaching Points

Faith and Identity

- **Faith is the currency of the kingdom**—believers must operate in faith rather than fear or feelings 4 5
- The church is the **bride of Christ** and should carry herself accordingly, reflecting His power and wealth rather than looking spiritually impoverished 2 3 6
- **Results are proof (fruit) of faith**—faith without corresponding action and outcomes is dead 7 8

Giving as Covenant Response

- **Tithing predates the Law of Moses**—Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek out of gratitude, not obligation, establishing the principle before legal requirements 6 9 10
- Believers should **give out of honor, not compulsion**—bank statements reveal where one's heart truly is 10 11
- **Not giving may indicate lack of honor** for God and the covenant relationship 11 12
- God promises to **open floodgates of heaven** and **rebuke the devourer** for those who bring the full tithe into the storehouse 13 14

Covenant Benefits and Provision

- God gives **power to gain wealth to confirm His covenant**, not for personal glory but to honor His name 15 16
- Believers operating in covenant should expect **provision, protection, and peace** (green pastures) 4 17
- **Favor often goes further than money**—obedience and faith unlock divine provision beyond currency 4
- The righteous and their children are **never seen begging for bread** when walking in faith 18 19

Spiritual Authority and Obedience

- Believers must **use prophetic gifts to profit**, speaking to their circumstances with authority 20 21
- **Immediate obedience** to God's voice unlocks provision—often the answer arrives before the day ends when in alignment 7 22 23
- **Quick hearing and response** to the Holy Spirit is essential; provision may already be in place waiting to be unlocked 22 24

Biblical Foundation

- **Genesis 14:18-20**: Abraham gave tithe to Melchizedek as response to blessing, establishing pre-Law principle 6 9
- **Hebrews 7:1-7**: Confirms tithing as New Testament principle through Melchizedek typology 12 25
- **Malachi 3:10-11**: God's challenge to test Him through tithing, promising overflow and protection 13 14
- **Deuteronomy 8:1-18**: God humbles and tests to see if believers will keep commands, then brings into abundant land; He gives power to gain wealth to confirm covenant 15 26 27
- **Deuteronomy 28:1-2**: Obedience causes blessings to overtake believers, placing them above nations 28

- **Psalm 37:25:** The righteous are never forsaken, their children never begging 19
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7:** Sow generously to reap generously; give as decided in heart, not from compulsion 19 29

Practical Applications

Stewardship Principles

- **Give from all increase**, not just employment income—God can multiply gifts received when tithed 30
- Be **wise in giving**—not every request requires response; seek God's direction to avoid draining resources through manipulation 29 31
- **Offerings beyond tithe** (half shekel to full shekel and beyond) unlock additional blessings 30 32

Faith in Action

- **Speak to circumstances** with spiritual authority—rebuke sickness, lack, and discouragement at the root 5 33
- **Capture thoughts** that rise against knowledge of Christ; renew mind to think as Christ thinks 34 35
- **Ask God for desires**—many lack because they don't ask; favor and provision come through requesting 17 20

Overcoming Obstacles

- **Low self-esteem prevents reflection of Christ's power**—internal view of self-worth affects external manifestation of covenant benefits 2 3
- **Discouragement decreases when faith increases**—faith-building naturally addresses emotional struggles 36
- **Obedience wins every time**—even when it seems costly or doesn't make natural sense 23 37

Testimonies Shared

- **Ray and family:** Transitioned from struggling household with roaches and dirty apartment to owning clean home with financial stability after joining church and becoming members 38
- **Mama D:** Experienced immediate healing from severe headache and stomach pain after speaking Word over body in faith 5 37
- **Jacob:** Received immediate provision (money hit Apple Pay) after obeying God's voice not to attend work party, despite having paid ticket 23
- **Anonymous member:** Gave offering with concern about finances, then discovered check already waiting in mail—provision preceded obedience 22

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- **Next Sunday (June 2):** All services online only—men's group traveling to San Marcos; no in-person gathering at either location 39
- **Hub meetings suspended:** No Monday or Saturday hubs this week; resuming beginning of June for rest and rejuvenation 38 39
- **Week 16 preview:** Next teaching in "The Searching" series will focus on **power** 33
- **Pentecost Sunday:** Celebrated the outpouring of Holy Spirit and power given to believers 40 41

Membership and Discipleship

- **Invitation extended** for online viewers to accept Jesus or recommit their lives 42 43
- **Membership benefits:** Additional level of covering, protection, community, and increased pastoral spiritual sensitivity 39 43
- **Discipleship available:** Sufficient shepherds to disciple new believers and members 43

Prayer Focus

- Local churches and church buildings 40 41

- Family restoration and relationship building 40 41
- Overcoming discouragement 41
- Memorial Day: Remember those who fought for freedoms 44