

STEP OF ZEBULUN

WEEK 10

ZEBULUN - יששכר

“Glorious Dwelling Place”

THE WEAKNESS WE ARE STRENGTHENING

Many Christians do not live in a way that shows they recognize God as Lord of their wealth. Usually, fear, stinginess, or greed is the source of this.

FOCUS

Establishing a tithing habit. Moving into generosity.

KEY VERSE

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
(Matthew 6:21)

KEY POINTS

- A TITHE is “one tenth” or 10%. We tithe to honor God as our provider. It is an act of Worship!
- Tithing is a statement to God showing we recognize Him as the source of our wealth and provision.
- Tithing is having Faith in God to keep His promise. (Malachi 3:10)
- Jesus needs to be Lord of ALL of our life which includes our money.

*The Step of Zebulun is about learning to worship God
as the Lord of Our Wealth.*

ICE BREAKER

If money were no object, what crazy or unique thing would you love to have in your dream home?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1.) *If we consider the average American **Christian**, what would you guess they spend more time thinking about: How to build their personal wealth or how to build the Kingdom of God? If you had to assign percentages, what percent of the time would you guess for each?*

- 2.) *How real is Heaven to you? What do you think Heaven is going to be like? In your imagination, how is it?*

- 3.) **WATCH** the Heaven compilation video called "Heaven Seen" (On Path2Hope's site)

The TENTH Step in the Path 2 Strength is the **STEP OF ZEBULUN**.

The name Zebulun means "Glorious Dwelling Place."¹ It is an allusion to Heaven, the ultimate home of us believers!

- 4.) **READ** Matthew 6:19-21:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

¹ <https://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Zebulun.html>

5.) *What does this passage mean to you? How actively are you working to store up treasures in Heaven?*

6.) **READ** the following passages:

Hebrews 7:1-4 – *“For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated ‘king of righteousness,’ and then also king of Salem, meaning ‘king of peace,’ without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God . . . to whom even the patriarch **Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.**”*

Proverbs 3:9-10 – *“Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with **the firstfruits** of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”*

Leviticus 27:30 – *“And all **the tithe** of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s. It is holy to the Lord.”*

Malachi 3:8-9 – *“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ **In tithes and offerings.** You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.*

7.) *What do you think are some of the different reasons some **Christians** don’t tithe?*

No matter how talented, how intelligent, or how strong someone is, they could not earn money without the body God gave them. Everyone who has a functioning brain, a mouth that works, and a stomach to digest their food, owes those things to Him. And if we are blessed to have two arms and legs, two eyes to see, and general health to live well, we should recognize those things are also from Him and usually needed to earn money. Not to mention the talents and gifts He’s given each of us.

We did not choose the country into which we were born, He chose that for us. He is also the one who brought us the opportunities and resources that have come our way. He is the one who makes the sun to shine upon us all, who causes it to rain on every field, and who brings crops to harvest for us to eat.

Therefore, no one has ever earned a single penny without His help.

The tithe, which means “one tenth” or “10%,” is the amount of our income we give back to God in order to honor Him as our provider. It is an act of worship, and Abraham modeled it for us almost 4,000 years ago.

Yet, many Christians don't practice a tithe regularly! Here are a few of the more common reasons:

A.) It's considered part of the Old Testament Law, not the New Testament.

Jesus did not do away with God's Law, He provided an escape from the *penalty* of breaking it. So, a Christian who doesn't tithe will no longer be penalized for it.

However, if our only reason for not tithing is we don't "have to" anymore, then can we truly call ourselves grateful to God for what He has done for us? How can a Christian whose beginning point is only doing what they have to do be considered generous and loving toward God?

B.) They don't like how their church is spending the money.

How a pastor, a priest, a board of elders or deacons, or the majority vote of a congregation decide to spend money donated to a church is between them and God.

When we give the tithe, *it is not a donation*. It is an act of worship!

As far as we are concerned, it honestly doesn't matter if a pastor takes the cash we've given and burns it. If such a thing were happening, you of course might want to seriously consider changing churches, but if you are not a part of the church's accountability/governing authority, then that is between the church and God.

Our responsibility is to give as an act of worship, period. We give the tithe as a statement to God that we recognize Him as the source of our wealth and provision. What happens to our gift after that is His problem, not ours.

C.) They are afraid they can't afford it.

This is a common fear, so if you struggle with it, you are not alone!

Yet, this is what God said to us through the prophet Malachi:

*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
That there may be food in My house,
And try Me now in this,"
Says the Lord of hosts,
"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
And pour out for you such blessing
That there will not be room enough to receive it."
(Malachi 3:10)*

Many Christians have experienced supernatural financial provision from God once they begin to tithe, and this is exactly what God is promising in Malachi 3. It isn't a "get-rich-quick" scheme kind of promise, but He is promising to take care of us financially if we trust Him enough to tithe.

This is faith. If we truly believe this promise of God, we will act on it in trust.

This is the *only* area in Scripture where God tells us it's okay to test Him on something. In fact, in this promise, He is inviting us to!

8.) *Have you ever been generous with God and experienced a supernatural provision from Him afterward? If not, are you willing to test Him and try the promise of Malachi 3?*

Money is a sensitive subject for many people. But if Jesus is Lord of our Life, He must be Lord of ALL of our Life, and that includes our money.

Just as it would be impossible to claim that Jesus is *Lord of Our Calendar* without giving Him any of our time, so it is impossible to claim that Jesus is *Lord of Our Wallet* if we don't give Him any of our money. It's that simple.

Why not take a chance?

If you haven't been tithing well, now is a great time to start! Let's take God up on His invitation to test Him and see what He does.

And if you have been tithing well, maybe it's time to consider if there are ways to support Kingdom work in a greater way and store up some more treasures in Heaven!

*The Step of Zebulun is about the Christian truly making
God the Lord of their Wealth!*

ACTION STEPS & HOMEWORK

Action Steps

COMMIT to writing out a family budget if you don't have one already.

COMMIT to attempting to tithe this week.

GROUP PRAYER NEEDS
