

# STEP OF GAD

## WEEK 7

### GAD - 7λ

#### *“A Cutting That Brings a Blessing”*

#### **THE WEAKNESS WE ARE STRENGTHENING**

Many Christians are dominated by physical desires and are saturated with the world’s influence. This lesson will help them learn to conquer their physical bodies and to turn off the world.

#### **FOCUS**

Beginning to fast and reduce the world’s influence.

#### **KEY VERSE**

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*  
(Romans 12:2)

#### **KEY POINTS**

- Jesus gave up ALL for *us* so we must be willing to give up ALL for *Him*. To follow Jesus means to imitate Him.
- The word “World” as we are referring to it in this lesson does not mean the physical earth, planets or even life. It means the current order of things, the culture that surrounds men and women.
- As Christians, we need to cut off any influences on our minds that are hurting our relationship with Christ.
- FASTING is an avenue that we can use to help reduce the World’s influence.

*The Step of Gad is about beginning a practice of fasting and being willing to sacrifice things of the world distracting us from the Kingdom.*

## ICE BREAKER

*What is your favorite TV Show and/or Movie and why do you like it?*

## GROUP DISCUSSION

The SEVENTH Step in the Path 2 Strength is the **STEP OF GAD.**

In most study Bibles, the name of Israel's seventh son, Gad, is translated in the footnotes as "troop." This is a simplified translation that prevents us from seeing the deeper meaning behind the name.

In fact, "troop" is actually an incorrect translation into English because it implies soldiers, or troops. A much better translation would be "raiders" or "bandits." The image the word conveys is a group of raiders that race their horses into a village, *cutting through it*, in order to retrieve its treasure.

Other ancient Hebrew uses of the word *gad* are when pagan priests would cut themselves to produce blood, or when a river would cut through a bank to reveal mineral deposits.

*Thus, the true root meaning behind the name Gad is "a cutting that brings a blessing."*

**1.)** *What does this definition "a cutting that produces a blessing" make you think of?*

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**2.)** *Can you think of any personal sacrifice you've made in life that you would classify as a "Gad" act, i.e., a sacrifice that produced a blessing?*

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**3.)** *Obviously, Jesus dying for us on the cross was the **ultimate** Gad act. He sacrificed Himself so we could have the blessing of Heaven and eternal life with Him. What other "Gad" type acts did Jesus do for us?*

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**The name of Gad prophetically points to the ultimate cutting that produced a blessing, the Crucifixion of Christ on the Cross.** His cutting allowed for our salvation which is priceless! This is the ultimate *Gad*!

**We can also recognize many of the other things that Christ gave up for us.** He gave up His throne in Heaven and all the power that came with it to humble Himself and live among us, suffering every hardship and temptation we endure. Then, He willingly gave up His very life to save us from a terrible destiny, redeeming us for eternity to Himself. (See Philippians 2:5-8)

**Now, He calls us to follow Him, saying,** “*And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*” (Luke 14:27)

**To follow Him means to do as He did. To imitate Him.**

*A big part of doing as He did is to give up anything we need to give up that is of this **World** in order to follow Him.*

If He was willing to give up all for us, then we should be willing to give up all for Him.

**4.) What does the word “the World” mean to you?**

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In the New Testament, the Greek word for “World” is *kosmos*, and the concept of *kosmos* in the Bible is bigger than we often understand.

*Kosmos* does not mean the physical earth, or the planet as we mean it, or even life. It means the current system, the current order of things. It refers to the collective systems and culture that govern men and women.

It is imperative that all Christians understand the full concept of this word “the World.”

As the New Testament tells us, “*Do not be conformed to this world*” (Romans 12:2a), so we should understand that everything that is of the World is outside of and against the Kingdom of God.

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

**John 15:18-19** – “*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*”

**1 John 2:15** – “*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*”

**John 8:42-44a** – “*Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.’*”

**1 John 4:5** – “*They [non-believers] are of the world. Therefore, they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.*”

**John 17:16** – “[Believers] are not of the world, just as I [Jesus] am not of the world.”

**1 John 5:4** – “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith

Jesus is teaching us that there is a sharp difference between His teachings and the teachings of the World which originates with the devil.

**Yet, many Christians try to live with feet in both the Kingdom and the World.** They want to have citizenship in the Kingdom of Christ, *but they don’t want to give up their citizenship in the World either.*

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

**Luke 9:62** – “But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

**James 4:4** – “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

**Romans 12:2** – “Do not be conformed to this World, **but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

**7.)** *Christians far too often let themselves be influenced by the beliefs and practices of the World. What are some of the beliefs of the World that you see influencing Christians that shouldn’t?*

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**8.)** *Can you think of any television shows, movies, or other cultural influences that you could or should cut out of your life?*

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*How could this be a “Gad” act, “A cutting that produces a blessing”?*

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**Fasting** is the practice of forgoing food or other things for a set period of time for the purpose of seeking a closer walk with God or petitioning Him for something specific.

There are different kinds of fasts. The simplest kind is simply abstaining from food altogether for a few days drinking nothing more than water. Some might add juice to the fast. Others just abstain from sugar, desserts, or any good tasting foods for days or even weeks. And others may choose to give up other things like social media, television, or even sports.

The purpose of fasting is to declare to God that He is important to us, and that His Kingdom is important to us. It is also to show Him through action that something we are praying about is very important to us.

(Honestly, He already knows this, but it shows *us* whether something is truly important to us – if we are willing to give up food over it, then we definitely care about it!)

A secondary impact is that it helps us gain control over our flesh and its desires, or to reduce the importance and influence of the World over us.

Also, Jesus teaches us that fasting adds power to our prayers:

*When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then, the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.*

*And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"*

*So, He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and **fasting.**"*  
(Mark 9:14-29)

9.) *Have you ever participated in any kind of fast?*

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**As a group, we are going to attempt a simple 3-Day fast together over this next week!**

**Instructions**

- Do not do anything that would jeopardize your health. Please take into account any special health conditions you may have.
- Decide what you are going to be personally fasting for. What are you going to be praying to God about?
- We are going to fast for 3 full days.
- The start time will be 72 hours before our next small group meeting time.
- We will break our fast together at the next meeting.
- Anyone who is overly intimidated by fasting for three full days can try starting with just one or two days.
- During the fast, remember why you are fasting. Every hunger pang is a reminder to pray.

