

STEP OF SIMEON

WEEK 2

STEP 2

SIMEON - שמעון

“He who Hears/He who Obeys”

THE WEAKNESS WE ARE STRENGTHENING

Too many believers are excusing lives filled with moral compromise. This is harming our relationship with God as well as weakening our witness, both individually and corporately.

FOCUS

Leaning into Obedience

KEY VERSE

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)

KEY POINTS

- God showed His love for us through the gift of salvation, but we show OUR love towards God through Obedience.
- The Law of God remains the perfect expression of God’s Heart and still needs to be obeyed.
- Through the sacrifice of Jesus, we are saved and are no longer under the PENALTY of breaking God’s law.
- We become more and more like Jesus through obedience. John 14:15 – If you love me, keep my commandments.

The Simeon step is about unblocking our relationship with God by confessing our sins to God and moving into obedience. Without this second step, one’s relationship with God is blocked and/or frozen, and the believer will remain in weakness.

ICE BREAKER

“Simon Says”

Everyone may remain seated. This game leader should call out commands to the group, sometimes beginning with the phrase “Simon says . . .”, sometimes not. Players are supposed to obey only the commands that begin with “Simon says” and not the others.

Players who don’t do the “Simon says” commands are “out,” as well as players who accidentally obey commands that don’t start that way.

As players are eliminated, the game leader should try to go faster and faster until only one player is left! If the group wants to play more than once, and time permits, go for it!

GROUP DISCUSSION

The SECOND Step in the Path 2 Strength is the **STEP OF SIMEON**.

Simeon was the second-born son of Jacob and the second Tribe of Israel. The name **Simeon** means “He who Hears.” In the Bible, “hearing” is always synonymous with “obeying.” Jesus often said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear. . .” Whenever He said this, He was calling people to obey what He had just said.

For many years, many Christians have emphasized grace at the expense of obedience. This is a major source of our weakness and lukewarmness as a church and in our personal walk.

We correctly understand that through justification by faith, we are saved through the Blood of Jesus and are no longer under the PENALTY of God’s Law (for breaking it). However, we often incorrectly teach that this means God’s Law is no longer relevant.

Yet, Jesus said, *“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”* (Matthew 5:18)

Therefore, God’s Law remains as the perfect expression of God’s Heart and what He desires in our obedience, especially with regards to morality and ethics.

The PURPOSE of our salvation through the Blood of Jesus is not just to gain entrance to Heaven, but to put us on the path of Sanctification as we become more and more like Jesus, **through obedience**, in order to Glorify God.

Jesus also said, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”* (John 14:15)

This is very clear. God showed His love *to us* by dying for us and offering us the free gift of salvation. In return, we show Him love by obeying.

We are not saved through obedience – *that is through grace* – but we cannot show love to God back without obedience.

1.) READ John 13:3-10

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!"

Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

2.) *What do you think Jesus meant when He told Peter that if He didn't let Him wash his feet, he would have no part with Him?*

In the Old Testament, outside the Temple of God, there was a bronze altar where the blood sacrifices were made. These sacrifices symbolically pointed forward to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for us.

This bronze altar was *outside* the Temple because a person needs to be covered by the blood in order to enter God's house (Temple). However, there was a second object outside the Temple, a *Bronze Laver*. This was a huge basin filled with water where the priests would wash their hands and feet before entering the Temple.

This is connected to the Lord's Supper where Jesus washed the disciple's feet. It is a symbol for regularly confessing our daily sins to God to get the relationship clear and strong.

As we walk through the world, our feet get dirty, even if we've been bathed before. In the same way, even though we are saved by the Blood of Jesus, we have daily sins that "dirty" our feet.

Just as the priests could not enter God's House without washing their feet, so should we not try to enter God's presence without confessing our daily sins. This would be like insisting on tracking mud through your Father's house when He is offering to clean our feet for us before we come in. This would be extremely disrespectful, so let's not do it.

The Bible actually says our relationship with God will be blocked if we don't do this.

3.) READ the following passages:

Psalms 66:18 – *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear."*

Isaiah 59:2 – *"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."*

1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

4.) For Silent Consideration: “Are there any sins in your life that you haven’t confessed to Him in prayer? (Not just big ones, but even little ones from the last 24 hours.)”

UNBLOCKING our relationship with God by confessing our sins is only the **1ST HALF** of the **STEP OF SIMEON**.

THE 2ND HALF is moving forward in our walk with Him by obeying *the last thing He asked you to do*.

We often pray for guidance, asking Him to help us know what we should do that day, or tomorrow, or even next year. We pray for guidance with our families, with our careers, and with our ministry, yet we often struggle to hear His answer.

The reason for this is that He has almost always ALREADY asked us to do something that we haven’t yet obeyed Him in.

TESTIMONY FROM THE DIRECTOR OF
PATH2HOPE MINISTRIES

I remember one time I was praying in a very serious way, asking God to show me how He wanted Path2Hope to grow in the coming year. What were His plans? What did I need to know? How should I lead it?

His simple and clear answer to me was, “What about that friend I pressed you to call a few weeks ago that you haven’t called yet?”

Humbled, I realized I was foolishly asking for “next steps” when I hadn’t yet obeyed His previous step for me.

God will not reveal the next things for us until we’ve obeyed those previous things He’s asked, no matter how simple. It could be as big as beginning to tithe, to change a lifestyle, or launch a ministry. Or it could be as small as texting someone an encouragement.

5.) *Is there anything you’re willing to share that God has been asking you to do that you haven’t obeyed yet?*

6.) *Did anything surprise you about this lesson? What idea or teaching do you want to take with you and meditate on strongly this week?*
