

Learning Self-Discipline (Tithing)

Malachi 3:6-12 - Breaking Covenant by Withholding Tithes

⁶“I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.
⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ ⁸“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. ⁹ **You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.** ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

Tithe, which is ten percent of what we produce or earn, (**the word tithe is based on the Hebrew number ten**).

Why 10%? What’s so important about the number 10?

Ten is a perfect number, and signifies the perfection and completeness of Divine order.

In Genesis 1 we find "God said" 10 times. This is the testimony of God concerning His creative power.

Noah was the tenth generation

The Ten Commandments contain all that is necessary, and no more than is necessary, both as to their number and their order.

The Lord's Prayer is complete in ten clauses.

The 10 clauses of the Lord's Prayer

1. **The first, God's sovereignty.**
2. **The second, God's manifested Name**
3. **The third, the realization of God's kingdom.**
4. **The fourth first mentions the earth.**

5. **The fifth, the gift of grace supplying our need.**
6. **The sixth talks about man's sin.**
7. **The seventh pleads for spiritual guidance.**
8. **The eighth pleads for final deliverance from all evil.**
9. **The ninth sums up the divine glory**
10. **The tenth completes the eternal cycles.**

Fire came down from heaven ten times, six of which were in judgment:

1. Genesis 19:24, on Sodom.
2. Leviticus 9:24, on the first offerings.
3. Leviticus 10:2, on Nadab and Abihu.
4. Numbers 11:1, on the murmurers at Taberah.
5. Numbers 16:35, on Korah and his company.
6. 1Kings 18:38, on Elijah's offering at Carmel.
7. 2Kings 1:10, on Elijah's enemies.
8. 2Kings 1:12, on Elijah's enemies.
9. 1 Chronicles 21:26, on David's sacrifice.
10. 2 Chronicles 7:1, on Solomon's sacrifice.

The number 10 was associated with redemption

Exodus 30:12-16; ¹²“When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the LORD a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them. ¹³ Each one who crosses over to those already counted is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs. This half shekel is an offering to the LORD. ¹⁴ All who cross over, those twenty years old or more, are to give an offering to the LORD. ¹⁵ **The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the LORD to atone for your lives.** ¹⁶ Receive the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the service of the tent of meeting. It will be a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD, making atonement for your lives.”

The ten Plagues of Egypt

The ten plagues were representative of the complete circle of God's judgments on Egypt. **Exodus 9:14**,¹⁴ or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth.

There were 10 trials of Abraham's Faith?

Abraham's faith was proved by a completed cycle of ten trials: -

- 1. His departure from Haran.**
- 2. His flight to Egypt from the famine.**
- 3. In the seizure of Sarah.**
- 4. In his war to rescue Lot.**
- 5. In his taking Hagar.**
- 6. In his circumcision.**
- 7. In the second seizure of Sarah at Gerar.**
- 8. In the expulsion of Ishmael.**
- 9. In the expulsion of Hagar.**
- 10. In the offering of Isaac.**

10 times in the Bible the people shouted for JOY?

1. Leviticus 9:24, when the fire from heaven consumed the first sacrifices.
2. Joshua 6:20, at the taking of Jericho.
3. 1 Samuel 4:5, when the Ark was brought into the camp.
4. 1 Samuel 10:24, when Saul was chosen king.
5. 1 Samuel 17:20, when Israel went to fight the Philistines.
6. 1 Samuel 17:52, when pursuing them.
7. 2 Samuel 6:15 (1Chronicles 15:28), when the Ark was brought back from the house of Obed-edom.
8. 2 Chronicles 13:15, when God smote Jeroboam before Abijah.
9. 2 Chronicles 15:14, when Asa and the people heard Oded's prophecy.
10. Ezra 3:11, when the foundation of the second Temple was laid.

10 times God CURSED someone or something?

God's righteous curses are completed in a series of ten:

1. Genesis 3:14, 15, on the serpent.
2. Genesis 3:17, the ground.
3. Genesis 4:11, Cain.
4. Genesis 9:25, Cainan.
5. Joshua 6:17, Jericho.
6. Joshua 6:28, Achan, Joshua 7:12, Achan.
7. Joshua 9:23, Gibeonites.
8. Judges 9:57, Shechemites.
9. 1Kings 16:34, Hiel the Bethelite.
10. Mark 11:21, The Fig tree.

The Ten Rebellions of Israel

The ten rebellions of Israel in the wilderness mark the completed series of Israel's perversities. **Numbers 14:21-23**; ²¹ Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, ²² not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— ²³ not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

There are 10 "I AM's" of Jesus found in the book of John?

1. **"I am the Bread of Life" (6:35).**
2. **"I am the Bread of Life which came down from heaven" (6:41).**
3. **"I am the Living Bread" (6:51).**
4. **"I am the Light of the world" (8:12).**
5. **"I am One that bear witness of Myself" (8:18).**
6. **"I am the Door of the sheep" (10:7,9).**
7. **"I am the Good Shepherd" (10:14).**
8. **"I am the Resurrection and the Life" (14:6).**
9. **"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (14:6).**
10. **"I am the True Vine" (15:1,5).**

The Temple's Silver Sockets; The silver sockets which formed the foundation of the Tabernacle were **10 x 10. Exodus 38:27** ²⁷ The 100 talents of silver were used to cast the bases for the sanctuary and for the curtain—100 bases from the 100 talents, one

talent for each base. These were made of silver, and silver is significant of redemption. **See 1Peter 1:18,19.**

Tithes: Tithes represent the whole of what was due from man to God, as marking and recognizing God's claim on the whole.

What is tithing?

A tithe is ten percent of what we produce or earn.

Malachi 3:3, ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,

John 14:23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will **obey my teaching**. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

1 Corinthians 9:23-27²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

The Need for Self-Discipline

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, **but only one gets the prize?** Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ **Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training**. They do it to get a crown that will not last, **but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.** ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Clarifying Terms

1. **Self-discipline** is **personal training that develops self-control and character**, resulting in an orderly and efficient life. You and I must practice self-discipline in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Divine discipline** is God's correction when we step out of His will or disobey Him. **Heb. 12:5** ⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

Why is Self-Discipline Necessary?

1. **Self-discipline is essential to godliness 1 Pet. 1:15** ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

1Tim 4:7-8 - ⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. ⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

2. **Unless you submit your natural desires to the control of the Spirit, they will dominate your lives.** Food, rest, companionship, and sexual intimacy are good things, but they must be surrendered to the Lordship of Christ.

What can we expect when we fail to practice self-control?

(11 Reasons) - An undisciplined life causes us to . . .

1. **An undisciplined life causes us to Indulge our fleshly, carnal desires.**
Usually, we will find ourselves stepping out of God's will if we fail to practice self-discipline.
2. **An undisciplined life causes us to Become defensive about our sinful lifestyles.**
3. **An undisciplined life causes us to Hinder our health.**
4. **An undisciplined life causes us to Harm our finances and get into debt.**
Credit card companies seek out, target and thrive on undisciplined people.
(Why do you think they go after College kids)
5. **An undisciplined life causes us to Perform poorly on the job.** In the extreme form, a lack of discipline will eventually result in job loss.
6. **An undisciplined life causes us to Be overlooked for promotion.** Being disciplined may prepare you for the next opportunity.
7. **An undisciplined life causes us to Develop lazy habits.**
8. **An undisciplined life causes us to Speak recklessly.** (Usually with our tone, topic and technique).
9. **An undisciplined life causes us to Arrive late.**
10. **An undisciplined life causes us to Waste time and energy.** Live by a schedule, set priorities for each day and following through with them. (Note: Our priorities are not always tasks, they are people too).
11. **An undisciplined life causes us to Have a poor testimony.** An undisciplined life compromises a believer's witness to others.

How do I train myself to have a disciplined life? (6 Ways)

1. **Have a definite purpose.** Setting Clear goals with Clear Expectations will identify what disciplines are needed for achievement.
2. **You might have to detach from the things that draw you away from God and your goals.**
3. **Pursue your objectives with diligence.** Reflecting on the worthiness and value of your goals will help keep you on course.
4. **Be consistent.** The full benefits of a self-controlled life can be found only through regular practice.
5. **Practice self-control/Self-restraint.** Even if you fail sometimes, continue to work on self-discipline.
6. **Say “no” in the strength of the Holy Spirit.** Remember, the indwelling presence of the Spirit is available to empower you. **We get to Embark or call upon that power inside of us and any time!**

Are there personal and spiritual rewards for being disciplined? YES

1. **We have a more orderly and less stressful life.** Self-discipline can increase your peace, joy, and confidence.
2. **We have Improved self-esteem.** Setting and achieving goals will give you a sense of accomplishment.
3. **We have Increased productivity.** A well-planned day is generally more fruitful.
4. **We have Better health.** By eating right, exercising, avoiding drug and alcohol abuse, and getting proper rest, many illnesses can be avoided.
5. **(Relationships) We have a positive impact on others.** When we live disciplined lives, we often inspire others to do the same.
6. **Eternal reward.** The most significant benefit of discipline will come from Jesus the day we stand before Him.

How do you Begin to have a Life of Discipline?

1. **Spend time each day reading God’s Word.** (2 min., 1 verse daily)
2. **Make time for prayer.** Give God priority in your life.
3. **Tithe your income.** By being disciplined and obedient with finances, you give the Lord the opportunity to build your faith.
4. **Attend worship service every Sunday (ON TIME).** Meeting with fellow believers to fellowship and study His Word deepens our relationships with Him.