

1. [Num 15:37-40 ESV] Yahweh said to Moses, "Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of Yahweh, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God.
2. This video builds upon the understanding that when we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus, we are grafted into the common wealth of Israel and thus have expectations of obedience placed upon us. Once we have been adopted into the family of God, when we read about instructions given to the children of Israel, we are to understand that those now apply to us as well. To learn more about this, please consider my video, "Are You Grafted In?"
3. The Biblical command to wear tassels, which is also found in Deuteronomy 22:12, at first seemed to me seem a rather strange and arbitrary instruction. However, once I began to truly understand the purpose of the tassels, I recognized that this is yet another example of our Heavenly Father's grace and compassion. Again, the purpose of these tassels is explained in Numbers 15:39-40, "And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of Yahweh, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God."
4. So the tassels are actually for us and us alone. When they are worn, they are an ever present visual reminder for us to keep the commandments of God in the forefront of our minds, so that we can remember to obey them always. As I've discussed in other videos, the commandments of our Heavenly Father are a blessing that are intended to protect us, to keep us healthy, to keep us safe, and to ultimately make us more like Him. Thus, these tassels are a spiritual mnemonic to help us not forget how we are expected to behave as a child of the Most High God.
5. Interestingly enough, there are actually two different Hebrew words found in scripture that get translated as tassels. In Numbers 15 we

find the word tse·tseth, Strongs H6734. This is frequently pronounced by many modern believers as the transliterated word tzitzit, and it is also commonly taught that the plural for this word is tzitziyot. Although it is worth noting that in Numbers 15, tse·tseth is actually used for both the singular word tassel as well as the plural word tassels. In Deuteronomy 22:12, however, we find the Hebrew word gadil. These words carry meanings of twisted threads, tassels, or fringe, particularly on a garment or other clothing. Yet the word tse·tseth has another layer of meaning, due to its root word, that includes a floral or wing-like projection.

6. This becomes especially fascinating when we consider a rather peculiar sounding prophecy regarding the Messiah found in Malachi 4:2, “But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. The word that gets translated as wings is the Hebrew kă·năf’ which has multiple meanings including the corner of a garment. This same word ka-naf is translated as “corners” in Numbers 15:38, the verse commanding the children of Israel to wear tassels. So in other words, Malachi is prophesying that the Messiah shall rise with **healing** in the wing like projection on the corner or edge of His garment.
7. Amazingly, this is precisely what we see described in Matthew 9 and Luke 8 which both detail the account of a woman miraculously healed by her faith in Yeshua. Mat 9:20-21, “And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” Translated here as fringe in the ESV is the Greek word kră’-spe-don. The Outline of Bible usage includes the following three explanations: the fringe of a garment, in the NT a little appendage hanging down from the edge of the mantle or cloak, made of twisted wool, and, a tassel, tuft: the Jews had such appendages attached to their mantles **to remind them of the law**
8. So in essence, this woman was healed when she reached out and touched the tzitzit, or Biblically required tassels, on Yeshua’s garment. A similar incident is recorded in Matthew 14:35-36, “And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made

well.” These incidents are not only a fascinating connection to tassel commandment, but they are also yet another intriguing aspect of the example Yeshua set for us in how He lived his life.

9. Obviously He perfectly kept the law of God, and part of that includes the wearing of tassels. As imitators of Christ, we should be doing our very best to live like he lived. We are expected to follow his example. We see this clearly detailed in 1Jo 2:3-6 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
10. For years now, this has been a foundational principle in how our family has tried to live. Doing Bible things in Bible ways. If Yeshua specifically didn't do certain things, we try our best to also avoid those things. And whatever customs or common practices He did have, we try to be intentional in doing as well. To the best of our ability, and to the extent of our current understanding, we seek to follow the example of our Messiah. This simple premise of living by obedience has led to a great many blessings, a wealth of new scriptural insight, and a deeper, closer relationship with our Heavenly Father.
11. I must confess though, this seemingly simple little commandment to wear tassels was one of the more difficult changes to implement in my own life. After recognizing that I SHOULD be wearing tzitzits, it still took a great many months before I actually did. I admit that I struggled for so long simply because I was worried about looking stupid and what people would think. I read, and studied, and watched several teachings, many of which are linked in the description below, and knew all the reasons why I was expected to be obedient to this command. And yet, my disobedience persisted and gradually turned into rebellion against this command.
12. This only compounded my inner turmoil because I was aware that I was letting the thought of me being embarrassed prevent me from doing something I knew the Bible commanded me to do. This is the very definition of sin as outlined in 1 John 3:4, “Whosoever committeth

sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” I also couldn’t escape thinking about Mar 8:38, “For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

13. The thought of my savior being ashamed of me was terrifying, so I finally mustered the courage to order a set of tzitzits online, and when they arrived in the mail I became even more conflicted. I knew I should be wearing them, and now I even had a set in my hands. I no longer had any excuses. At the time, I was an art teacher at a very large public high school and I was nearly crippled by the fear that I would receive countless questions and snide comments about these strange tassels dangling from my belt loops. I am embarrassed to admit it now, but the thought of all those questions was paralyzing to me.
14. After a week or so of the tzitziyot laying on my dresser, still unopened, I finally committed to wear them the next day. After a nearly sleepless night of worry, I lay in bed praying the next morning and it was then that I felt the Father gently place a thought in my mind. “How many times have you intentionally done something, said something, or even worn something in the hopes that people would ask you a question and give you an opportunity to talk about me?” This was truly a revolutionary thought. As Bible believers, we often live very strategically, planning out and attempting to coordinate circumstances that might lead to a chance to share the gospel. I suddenly realized that wearing these tassels was no different.
15. It was the final motivation I needed to step out in obedience. And now, after wearing tzitzits daily for nearly six years, it’s fascinating to report that I have received exactly four questions. Incredibly, almost no one has asked about them! And now I’m so comfortable with them, I actually wish people WOULD ask questions. The fact that they don’t remains a bit of a mystery to me, and perhaps you will have, or have had, a different experience with wearing tzitziyot. But I personally suspect it is confirmation of the fact that the purpose behind this command is for us. We wear the tassels for our own benefit, for us to see them and remember the commandments of God in order to do them.

16. And they are surprisingly effective in that goal. It is very hard to not be constantly aware of them. And every time I see them, feel them, or even notice their shadow as I walk outside, I am reminded who I belong to and how I'm expected to behave. They really do help me keep the commandments at the forefront of my mind, and thus, when I encounter temptations or opportunities to sin, it's easier for me to quickly confront those thoughts and desires and resist them.
17. Putting tzitzits on each morning is an intentional act, and I try to always use it as an opportunity to pray as I do. I thank the Father for these simple twisted threads that help me wage spiritual warfare. These modest tassels that guard me on all four sides, much like the angels stationed at the four corners of the earth in Revelation 7:1
18. Because there are only a few brief verses that address this command, there are understandably quite a few questions people have when investigating this for themselves. How long should they be? Is there a certain way to make them? What other colors can be included? Do I have to make them? How do I attach them? Many of these questions are addressed in the additional video teachings linked in the description, but it's worth noting that the minimal directions the Father gives us should actually be acknowledged as a blessing. It doesn't need to be a super complicated issue. We are to wear tassels on the corners or edges of the garment with which we cover ourselves. We should be able to see them. And they should include a blue thread. Outside of these few requirements, there is a great deal of freedom in how you individually obey this command.
19. Perhaps the biggest debate with wearing tzitzits is the question of WHO is expected to wear them. There is a somewhat common belief that only men are expected to obey this command. This originates from the wording of Numbers 15:38 being given to the "children of Israel" Translated as children is the Hebrew word ben, which is itself a masculine noun. And granted, this word does appear nearly 5,000 times in the Old Testament and 60% of the time it is rendered as "son" or "sons"
20. However, an interesting pattern emerges when this masculine noun is used in conjunction with the word Israel. Doing a search for the phrase "children of Israel" reveals that it is used 3,359 times in the Old

Testament. As one scans these search results, it seems almost universally that the context of these verses is speaking to EVERYONE within the commonwealth of Israel. Men, women, and children. This fact becomes most apparent in a number of key passages and commandments well known by all believers. In the interest of time, these verses will be shown here but not read. Viewers are invited to pause the video to read and consider them more carefully.

1. [Exo 14:29 NKJV] But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.
 2. [Exo 16:35 NKJV] And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.
 3. [Exo 31:13 NKJV] "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.'
 4. [Exo 34:30 NKJV] So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.
 5. [Exo 40:36 NKJV] Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys.
 6. [Lev 11:2 NKJV] "Speak to the children of Israel, saying, 'These are the animals which you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth:
 7. [Lev 17:12 NKJV] "Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.'
21. Clearly these verses are obviously to be understood as happening to, or applying to, everyone who was a part of the people of Israel. Surely it was not only the men who walked across the Red Sea on dry ground. Certainly women and children also ate manna and were expected to keep the Sabbath day holy. Undoubtedly, all of the people of Israel would travel when the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle. There are countless other examples of verses that feature the same undeniable context of applying to all people. Because of this, it seems to me quite apparent that the wearing of tzitzits, since it is commanded to the Children of Israel, applies to everyone.

22. It is my earnest prayer that you would seek this matter out for yourself and diligently pray to ask the Father for wisdom concerning it. Because we are specifically commanded in the law of God to wear tassels, a refusal to do so is, in fact, a sin. And according to Hebrews 10, once we become aware of truth and go on deliberately sinning, we are only storing up wrath and judgement against ourselves. As such, this quickly becomes a very serious matter. For more on this understanding of sin, I would invite you to watch my video, "Fear and Trembling"

23. But ultimately, I pray that you would come to understand the many blessings that come with obedience to this command. In ancient times, the wearing of tassels was associated only with royalty and the wealthy elite. So it is fascinating that the Father brought the children of Israel out of Egypt as slaves, and then commanded all of them to do something that only royalty did. I personally find it interesting that these tassels have now become a visual part of my identity. They are an integral feature of how I see myself now. In fact, on the rare occasion that I don't wear them, I feel a little anxious or disconnected without them. These humble, tattered threads have become an important part of how I daily relate to and interact with my Creator. And after so much struggle in getting me to put them on, I now can't imagine ever going without them.