



## Week #2 "Spiritual Questions"

### Sermon Points:

Question 1 – How do we handle hard questions from people about God/Bible?

Question 2 – Tithing...really, do I have to?

Question 3 – Do I actually have free choice or is everything already predetermined by God?

**NOTE TO LEADERS: This weekend's message covered so much content it would be difficult to discuss it all in depth in one small group. We'd suggest using the Group Opener question and see which topic has the most interest for your people and then focus there. For everyone who'd like to take a deeper dive on a question, all scriptures from each question are listed on page #2**

### Group Opener:

Which of the questions answered in the sermon resonated with you most, why?

### Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever tried to share your faith with someone, and they responded in a way you didn't expect? What from the message was helpful in having these conversations going forward?
2. What points (see below) from this message helped you better understand God's commands with respect to tithing?
  - Everything we have is God's and he's given it to us to manage for him.
  - The best way I can live my life and manage the money he's given me is by obeying what he's said about money.
  - Does God want your money? No, he wants your heart. But he knows that the way our hearts work...
  - The tithe isn't the standard now, generosity is.
3. As you reflect on the tension between God controlling everything or human free will, which aspect do you find easier to understand and why?
4. Of everything that was talked about today. Which question do you still need to spend some time processing for yourself? What is the next step God is leading you to because of this week's message?

### **Question #1 “What is an appropriate response to a non-Christian saying, ‘so you think I’m going to Hell?’”**

Matthew 25:31-34 The Final Judgment <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 25:41&46 <sup>41</sup>“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

John 14:6 *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

### **Question #2 “Why do we still teach tithing like it is something we should still be doing?”**

*Psalms 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*

*Matt 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

*Lev 27:30 Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord.*

*Matt 23:23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”*

*2 Cor 9:11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*

### **Question #3 How does the Bible reconcile the seeming conflict between humans’ free will and God having a plan and controlling and knowing our destiny already?”**

*Ps 136:16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

*Prov 16:1 The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.*

*Prov 16:9 The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.*