

Tassels on Your Garments

In the wilderness, God gave Israel a striking command meant to shape their daily lives. *“Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them.”* Numbers 15:38-39. These tassels were not merely decoration. They were visible reminders that holiness was not optional but required. Each time an Israelite looked down at the fringe of his garment, he was reminded of God’s covenant, His commandments, and the call to live differently from the nations around them.

Jesus Himself acknowledged this practice. *“They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments.”* Matthew 23:5. The Pharisees wore tassels, but often with pride rather than humility. Their outward display did not always match inward obedience. This leads us to an important question for today.

Do we need tassels on our clothes?

The answer is found in Christ. The tassels pointed Israel to God’s law, but Jesus fulfilled the law perfectly. Paul reminds us in Romans 10:4 that *“Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”* Our reminder of obedience is no longer stitched into fabric; it is written on our hearts. *“I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts.”* Hebrews 8:10.

So, while we do not need tassels on our garments, we do need daily reminders of God’s call to holiness. Instead of a blue thread, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit, who convicts, guides, and strengthens us. Instead of fringes on our clothing, we have the Word of God, which we are called to meditate on *“day and night”* in Psalm 1:2.

In practice, this means opening scripture each day as our “visible reminder,” living in such a way that others see Christ in us, not tassels on us, and remembering that holiness is not optional. It is the fruit of belonging to Jesus. *“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.”* 1 Peter 1:15.

The tassels of Numbers 15 were threads of blue woven into garments. Today, our reminder is the thread of grace woven into our lives. Let us look upon Christ daily, remember His commandments, and walk in obedience. Not because of the fabric on our clothes, but because of faith in our hearts.

~Ron Josselet (Assisted by ChatGPT)