

RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Definition of Righteousness:

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his **wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should “be arrayed” in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**

Many people who have put their faith in the Lord for salvation have a misunderstanding of what the bible teaches about what the meaning of a righteous person really is. Many that have come to the Lord think that becoming a righteous person is simply to believe on the Lord and they have automatically become a righteous person. The scripture does teach that our righteousness comes from the Lord but we still have to be arrayed and clothed in robes of righteousness by living a righteous life that pleases the Lord, and we still have to do righteous acts. The word “righteousness” is defined as in the Greek as: “righteous acts” **δικαιώματα (dikaiōmata)**

Noun - Nominative Neuter Plural Strong's Greek 1345: From dikaios; an equitable deed; by implication, a statute or decision.

Everyone born in the earth is born unrighteous, in fact the bible teaches that all of our righteousness are as a woman’s filthy menstrual rag.

Isaiah 64:5 Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, *those that* remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved. **6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. 7**

And *there is* none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. **8** But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father; we *are* the clay, and thou our potter; and we all *are* the work of thy hand.

We can see clearly that we **should be arrayed** or dressed in fine linen which are the **righteous acts** that the Lord expects from us all. This requires putting away all sin and iniquity that destroys a persons life and leaves spots on their spiritual garments.

Revelation 19:8 **And to her was granted that she “should be arrayed” in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**

In the gospel of Matthew Jesus makes a distinction of a righteous man. Jesus is clearly identifying that some men are righteous and other men are not righteous by the implication of his statement in verse 41.

Matthew 10:40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me

receiveth him that sent me. **41** He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and **he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.** **42** And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

In the gospel of John we are told by the Lord to seek first the Kingdom of God - **AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**". Why would the Lord tell the disciples to seek righteousness if they were already made righteous when they became followers of Jesus? The reason is because none of them like us are automatically "righteous", we all have to be arrayed and clothed in the robes of righteousness that make us clean and righteous before God. Notice also that Jesus said that the pagans seek outwardly things to be clothed with, but in the Kingdom of God Jesus makes the distinct connection of fleshly clothing to seeking the righteousness of God. Outward clothing only last for a certain time, spiritual clothing of righteousness last for an eternity, this is why Jesus used physical clothing to bring to life the truth about the fine linen of righteousness that God wants every believer to be dressed and clothed with.

Matthew 6:**31** Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, **Wherewithal shall we be clothed?** **32** (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, **and his righteousness;** and all these things shall be added unto you.

The works of the flesh mentioned in Galatians chapter five are the filthy rags of unrighteousness. I want you to look what it says about those who "**DO such things**", they wont inherit the kingdom of heaven. Any person doing the works of the flesh are clothed in robes of unrighteousness which is a direct contrast to those that are clothed in the fine linen which represents the "**righteous acts**" of the saints as we have read.

Galatians 5:**19** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, **20** Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, **21** Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: **of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that "they which do" such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

Here are the righteous acts that every professing Christian should be doing. Galatians 5:**22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, **23** Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. **24** And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

The book of Hosea teaches us that we are to “sow” to ourselves righteousness.

Hosea 10:**12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon YOU. 13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way,** in the multitude of thy mighty men. **14** Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Betharbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon *her* children. **15** So shall Bethel do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off.

Some believe that mumbling a few words and asking God to come into their life without wanting to partake in the righteousness of Christ will save them after they have been born again and received Jesus as their Savior.

Scripture is clear in that a truly born again believer will have a strong desire to turn away from wicked sins and unrighteous carnal “acts”, and begin living and serving God in truth. They will also desire to do the will of the Lord and begin doing righteous deeds that please the Lord. Many will find themselves ashamed on the day of the Lord because they have not been clothed in robes of righteousness and refuse to heed the call to righteousness.

1 John 2:**28** And now, little children, **abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. 29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that “DOES RIGHTEOUSNESS” is born of him.**

Jesus tells us a story about a prodigal son who lived a life apart from his father and when the son remembered how life in his fathers house was he returned and was given a robe and a ring, this prodigal son is a picture of many in the body of Christ who have not been clothed in robes of righteousness and need to return to the father by repenting of living in the filth of the flesh and the world. The life that the prodigal son was living was among the pigs and there was no peace in his life until he came to his to himself and realized that his life was NOT pleasing to the Lord and he was living an unrighteous life apart from God which separated him from God. His clothes were filthy as he wallowed in the mud of sin that the world offers to all. Many in the body of Christ today are doing the very same thing. After the prodigal son repented, God gave him a “ROBE” and a ring to wear, this robe is the robe of righteousness.

Luke 15

11 And he said, A certain man had two sons: **12** And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And he divided unto them *his* living. **13** And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his

substance with riotous living. **14** And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. **15** And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. **16** And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. **17** And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, **19** And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. **20** And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. **21** And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. **22** But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet: **23** And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry: **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

We are to bring forth the righteous acts before God in our life and quit going through the motions that many churches are doing, we are to allow the fruit of righteousness spring up in all of our lives, and quit living our lives among the pigs that spot our spiritual garments.

Isaiah 45

5 I *am* the LORD, and *there is* none else, *there is* no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: **6** That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is* none beside me. I *am* the LORD, and *there is* none else. **7** I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these *things*. **8** Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it. **9** Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! *Let* the potsherd *strive* with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands? **10** Woe unto him that saith unto *his* father, What begetteth thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth? **11** Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. **12** I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, *even* my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. **13** I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.

On the day of judgment the Lord will only receive those who lived righteous lives as he did when the Lord delivered Lot from the hands of unrighteous men when God buried them and their cities they lived in with brimstone and sulfur and

destroyed them to ashes.

Luke 17:28 It was the same **in the days of Lot**: People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 **But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.** 30 **It will be just like that on the day the Son of Man is revealed.**

2 Peter 2

7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 **For that righteous man dwelling among them**, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds; 9 **The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:**

The entire Kingdom of God is based on righteousness.

Psalms 89

14 Justice and judgment *are* the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. 15 Blessed *is* the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. 16 In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in **thy righteousness shall they be exalted.**

Psalms 97

1 The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad *thereof*. 2 Clouds and darkness *are* round about him: **righteousness and judgment *are* the habitation of his throne.**

God loves the righteousness of righteous men and woman, and God detest and hates wickedness of wicked men and women. God will not anoint unrighteous men or women. With gladness or joy. The reason many are going through so much unnecessary depression and sadness is because the need to put on the robes of righteousness so God can anoint their life with the oil of gladness.

Psalms 45

3 Gird thy sword upon *thy* thigh, O *most* mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. 4 And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness **and righteousness**; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things. 5 Thine arrows *are* sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; *whereby* the people fall under thee. 6 Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom *is* a right sceptre. 7 **Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness**: therefore God, thy **God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness** above thy fellows. 8 All thy garments *smell* of myrrh, and aloes, *and* cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.

Sin is what causes spots on our spiritual garments and will cause anyone to disobey the Lord and to continue living a life of deceit and rebellion towards God. The word of God teaches us that sin is what testifies against us and when a person commits transgression, they are committing iniquity that separates them from God and they are “lying” to the LORD because of the life of sin they are living. Living a life of Iniquity will cause a person to depart from the Lord.

Isaiah 59

12 For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions *are* with us; and *as for* our iniquities, we know them; 13 In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. **14 And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. **15** Yea, truth faileth; and he *that* departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw *it*, and it displeased him that *there was* no judgment.**

Brothers and Sisters I submit to you that the only true way to resist the devil and keep his demons out of our life is by putting on the robe of righteousness. Any unrighteous person living in sin and falsehood will never please the Lord. Many do not realize that they must put on their robes and breastplate of righteousness and begin living righteous by doing righteous acts that please the Lord. This is why they constantly are bombarded by Satan with unnecessary trials, temptations and hardships. We must never forget that Satan is the accuser of the brethren and Satan can easily see if a believer has “PUT ON” their breastplate of righteousness. We all must stand in the righteousness of God and do his righteous acts as Jesus did during His earthly life and ministry.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

We are instructed in scripture to keep our garments from being spotted by the flesh. Jude makes a direct connection to those having their garments spotted by the flesh, as ones that need to be pulled out of a fire using even the fear of God to warn them about their spotted garments.

Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, **21** Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. **22** And of some have compassion, making a difference: **23 And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.**

Jesus gave a stark eyeopening parable of a man who showed up to a wedding feast banquet not having proper wedding clothing on. This man was thrown out of the wedding feast for not being “dressed” properly, the man thought he could just show up to the marriage wedding banquet with any kind of clothing. This parable Jesus gave is a parable that speaks to all of us about wearing the correct spiritual clothing that God expects all believers to be wearing when Jesus returns on the day the Lord returns to receive His Church. Any person not wearing their robes of righteousness will not be allowed into the Kingdom of heaven according to Jesus.

Matthew 22

1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, **2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,** **3** And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. **4** Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and *my* fatlings *are* killed, and all things *are* ready: come unto the marriage. **5** **But they made light of it,** and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: **6** And the remnant took his servants, and entreated *them* spitefully, and slew *them*. **7** But when the king heard *thereof*, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. **8** Then saith he to his servants, **The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.** **9** Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. **10** So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

Many today in the body of Christ are not serious about getting ready to meet the Lord, they are taking it lightly and still wearing their dirty rags and think they will be allowed into heaven when Jesus returns.

Matthew 22

11 **And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:** **12** And he saith unto him, Friend, **how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?** And **he was speechless.** **13** Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **14** For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

According to Mark chapter 16, any believer in Christ can cast out devils and the devils must obey and leave, but we must not forget that those devils will return again with seven more wicked than itself and will want to reenter as ruler of the house it once left. When a demon returns and finds the house “swept and clean” because the person has put on the righteousness of Christ and has turned away from doing unrighteous acts, the demons will not be able to enter the clean house again.

Many have received deliverance from demons and the demons have returned the person because they did not allow for the righteousness of God in their life. Before receiving any deliverance from tormenting demons you must do like the prodigal son who “came to his senses” and returned to the fathers house where he was clothed in righteousness as we walked in his Father’s kingdom!

I will share something that most in the body of Christ do not know about concerning the “**breastplate of righteousness**” spoken of in the book of Ephesians chapter 12. The breastplate of righteousness is a light that shines upon all enemies of Christ. When Satan and his demons see the light of Christ’s righteousness shining through a believer in Jesus, they flee and fear comes upon the kingdom of Satan.

In Matthew chapter 5 Jesus said “LET” your light shine, this is the light of righteousness and brings light from the throne room of God, the light of God shining in us blinds the devil and his demons, righteousness in a believer reaches out to those lost, hurt and those blinded by the devil, the flesh, and this corrupt world.

Many today are hiding their light, Jesus said let your light shine, let it radiate and use your light to illuminate the darkness in those around you and use it to pull others out of the fire.

Matthew 5

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. **15** Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and **it giveth light unto all that are in the house.** **16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

The good works are the righteous acts of the saints!

If any believer does not live a righteous life before God and others, they are leaving an open door to the devil because Satan can see if you are wearing the robe of righteousness, and if you are wearing the breastplate of righteousness which is your spiritual attire, Satan and his demons can not enter you or your house! The breastplate of righteousness protects you and your house from unwanted evil spirits.

Every believer who is not bearing fruits of righteousness must take heed to what the Lord spoke to the church of Ephesus, Jesus tells them to remember from whence they are fallen **and do their first works**. These first works are the righteous acts that you did when you first got saved. You had a strong desire to obey and live a holy life, but some have fallen away from doing their first works.

Revelation 2

4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. **5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works;** or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Jeremiah prophesied to Israel about wicked deeds and tells them that their own wicked acts have brought upon them correction from God. Israel like many today think that God will just ignore their backsliding and unrighteousness deeds committed in the flesh. What Israel did not realize is that God was keeping record of their evil deeds and “marked” them as fallen people because of iniquity and sin that led to forsaking God.

Jeremiah 2

17 Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that **thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God**, when he led thee by the way? **18** And now what hast thou to do in the way of Egypt, to drink the waters of Sihor? or what hast thou to do in the way of Assyria, to drink the waters of the river? **19 Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter,** that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear *is* not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts. **20** For of old time I have broken thy yoke, *and* burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot. **21** Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me? **22** For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, **yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD.**

Hebrews 12

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. **5** And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: **6** For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? **8** But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. **9** Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? **10** For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness. **11** Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. **12** Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; **13** **And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.**

I will close this study by asking you to ask yourself these questions?

How are you spiritually dressed? Are you living life in the mud filled with sins and iniquity? Are you warring against the devil and his kingdom without wearing a robe of righteousness? Does your life seem like you have been resisting the devil and not getting any results in your life? Does it seem like that your spiritual warfare prayers are non-effective? Are there any spots and stains of sin in your life that you have not repented of yet? Does your life feel like your sins have separated you from God?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, and would like to pray and ask God to help you begin living a holy and righteous life that pleases the Lord, then please pray the following prayer and commit to walking before the Lord in righteousness by turning away from doing evil unrighteous deeds.

REPENTANCE AND DELIVERANCE PRAYER

REPENTANCE PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I come this day before your throne Lord God, and ask you to forgive me of living an unrighteous life that displeases you. Please forgive me for allowing myself to commit unrighteous acts that were never pleasing to you.

Lord Jesus I ask you to help me to being living righteously, Lord I call on your name and ask you to deliver me from all demons that have lied to me about unrighteous acts of sin in my life. Forgive me and deliver me of my pride and my rebellion.

Lord Jesus, I commit and surrender my life and will to your authority and word today. I ask your Holy Spirit to reveal to me what area in my life I need to repent and change so my life can be clothed with your righteousness.

PAUSE AND REFLECT ON WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS SPEAKING TO YOU

Now pray this prayer for deliverance...

DELIVERANCE PRAYER

I renounce all demons that I have given place to in my life.

I renounce - [**NOW NAME EACH UNRIGHTEOUS ACT BY NAME**]

I Command all of these demons, [**CALL EACH DEMON OUT BY NAME**] to come out of me now and to leave my body and my mind right now, I cast all of you demons out of me in the mighty name of Jesus Christ my Lord. [**RECEIVE YOUR DELIVERANCE FROM THESE DEMONS NOW**].

AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED DELIVERANCE THANK THE LORD!

Thank you Lord Jesus for opening my eyes today to the truth about your righteousness that comes from you, and I thank you for delivering me from all the demonic forces that were behind all of my unrighteous acts and deeds. Thank you Lord Jesus for the blood you shed to cleanse me of all unrighteousness! Thank you for cleansing me today Jesus! I thank you Lord that according to 1 John 1:9 that reads - **9** If we confess our sins, **he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Thank you Jesus!

I pay all this in the mighty name of Jesus Christ my LORD! – Amen.