

Receiving and Using GOD'S righteousness by faith, Part 2.



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: Be sure to hear Part 1 first, one of my most important sermons. Does receiving God's own righteousness mean we can now return to a life of sin and darkness? What happens now when we, children of God, sin? Are we cut off from him and his love for us? Why did so many Jews of Paul's day not attain true righteousness? What's God like, with his children? Are you experiencing the JOY of your salvation, or do you fear you won't ever quite "measure up" to "qualify for" God's kingdom? All that and more in this teaching today.

(These "notes" are not a transcript, but pretty close. I recommend watching the video along with these notes in hand.)

Warmest hello again to all of you. Please, please be sure that you've watched or listened to part 1 before this one: Part 1 – Receive the GIFT of God's very own righteousness by FAITH.

God wants us to come to see that ONLY GOD is truly righteous and GOOD, all the time, perfectly. There is no one good but God, Jesus said. Sure, some people are "good people", but when compared to God's perfection, no one is good like God. God cannot sin. He cannot lie. He *never* stumbles or falls. His mercy and love are supreme.

So when you read of righteous people in the Bible, like the parents of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5), yes, they had human righteousness. But no one attains to the perfect righteousness of God himself unless and until God himself bestows it to us. So my entire talk today is about GOD's righteousness, not our own.

Paul said he knew that in himself, “nothing good dwells” – and then adds, “that is, in my flesh” because he knew that God’s good Holy Spirit was in Him. GOD and Jesus come and abide in us. When God abides in us, surely the natural result of that will be His righteousness being formed in us.

Jesus is and was the ONLY person who fulfilled God’s righteousness and obeyed perfectly. NO one else’s righteousness will equal that or be acceptable.

Hello again. I’m Philip Shields, minister and founder of Light on the Rock. Thank you for coming. Remember we have many hundreds of sermons, - audio only and video sermons, and lots of blogs too. **Use the Search bar.**

Scripture says – in the Old and New Testament – that the righteousness that God wants us to have is his own, and he knows we will never attain it ourselves. (The first to receive righteousness by faith was actually Abel, then Enoch then Noah. **See Hebrews 11:4-7**. But with Noah it is said he became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.)

It starts with Noah finding favor/grace with God (Genesis 6:8-9) and he “became the heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (**Heb. 11:7**).

I prefer the word “favor” to “grace” because people often say grace means “unmerited pardon”. But **Jesus grew in favor with God and men – Luke 2:52**. “Favor” is the same word in Greek is used for “grace”. Was that saying Jesus grew in unmerited pardon? So I prefer “favor” to the word “grace”.

Abraham believed God, when God told him he would have a son and millions of descendants -- and so his belief was accounted to him for righteousness (**Gen 15:6**). God gifts US with the same free gift, when we believe him, like Abraham received from God. (**Genesis 15:6; Rom 4:23-25**). **Romans 4:23-25** assures us God is impartial, and that if we believe God, we also can be credited with God’s righteousness by faith. This was all in Part 1.

Jerusalem will be called “the LORD (YHVH) OUR righteousness” (**Jeremiah 33:16**). Our righteousness was really HIS, that he bequeaths to us, in other words. **Isaiah 61:10** speaks of the robe of God’s righteousness covering us.

This “imputed righteousness of God” concept is literally all through the Bible.

David often spoke of wanting *GOD’s* righteousness (**See Psalm 40:10; 51:14; 71:16**). God’s people knew they wanted HIS righteousness, not just

their own. *I'm not saying we don't have to be righteous. Of course we do, but the focus is on God working in us producing HIS own righteousness* and we follow and obey Him instead of us struggling to somehow on our own become righteous enough. Here are couple.

Psalms 72:1

**"Give the king Your judgments, O God,
And YOUR righteousness to the king's Son."**

Isa 61:10 –**"HE has clothed me with garments of salvation, HE has covered me with the robe of righteousness."**

True Godly righteousness takes faith in God

Here are more passages about the righteousness of God by faith, that I didn't have time to read last time. So let's continue now into Part 2, and notice whose righteousness we are to seek. Jews sought righteousness by their own efforts but left out faith in God and so failed. Do you see/hear the difference?

Romans 9:30-32

"What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith;

31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.

32 WHY? Because they did not seek it by FAITH, but as it were, by the WORKS of the law."

Does this mean we don't have to keep God's Law? Of course we do. Romans 6 in particular is very clear about this. Please read all of Romans 6. The law tells us what sin is and also reveals God's nature. *Faith is proven by what we do, our works. So as we receive God's righteousness by faith, we have to respond to him and LET him work in us, as you'll see.*

Paul continues in Rom 10, still speaking of the Jews:

Romans 10:3

"For they [the Jews] being ignorant of GOD'S righteousness, and seeking to establish their OWN righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God."

A Rabbi once explained his view of God's judgment. He said when God weighs our good deeds vs our bad deeds (sins), if our good outweighs the bad, we're

OK. Of course that is not correct. We need a Savior if we sinned even just once. "The wages of sin is death" is all through even the Old Testament (**Ezekiel 18:4, 20** – "the soul who sins shall die".) So welcome to you Jews viewing this, and understand, it's not whether we have more goodness than evil – but whether we recognize our Savior and accept His righteousness.

But receiving God's very own righteousness sounds fanciful to many people. They don't believe it. And remember this has to be received by FAITH. But people seem to want to know that THEY themselves, by themselves, using Holy Spirit, become righteous enough. *We love being in control.* That's why I spent the time I did showing you all that in Part 1.

But because we all, even I, regularly fall short of God's perfect righteousness, we will often feel unqualified for His kingdom. We all know we keep failing too often; we keep sinning from time to time, even if just in "little" ways. More on this will be explained later in this sermon.

We all love the concept of "living by faith" – but maybe not so much in this topic. *WHY do we struggle to believe this form of faith: to believe GOD, like Abraham and Noah, and have him credit us with his own goodness.*

Salvation is entirely God's Work and gift (Rom 6:23)

We should all know that our salvation is entirely God's work from start to finish. Some of you resist that notion. God leads our salvation from start to finish. On your own, read **Romans 8:29-30**.

GOD calls us (**John 6:44**), GOD's goodness leads us to repentance (**Romans 2:4**), and helps us accept Jesus/Yeshua as our Savior and also God, and then the blood of Christ washes away all sin, ALL sin – past, present and future (**1 John 1:7, 9**). That's what "ALL" means (**1 John 1:7-9**), for we're assured that when we sin after that, as we all still will, God cleanses us (ongoing tense) from ALL sin. The cleansing is continuous, ongoing. **Rom 8:30** says he is the one making us just, and will be the one who glorifies us. It's all God's doing.

When we sin, God doesn't cut us off but jumps to our defense (**1 John 2:1-2**). He reminds God that He had already died for this person, paid his penalty, and had already taken on himself the wrath of that sin. More on this later.

Plus we have a champion – an Advocate – *who defends us* when we do sin, and reminds God that he already paid the penalty of any new sins (**1 John 2:1-2**). We'll review all this in more detail later. But how wonderful that is!

Some teachers teach that only sins of our past are forgiven, misusing Romans 3:24-25 – which in context, speaks of God's leniency on sins previously committed until Christ came, but now offers his own righteousness that HE might be the one who is making us righteous, who is the justifier for us. *Again, from start to finish, GOD is our Savior.*

You are not partial Savior of your life. We are not part-Creator of our new Creation. GOD alone is Savior. God alone is Creator. But we follow God, we obey God, we seek God, we resist the Devil – but it's God working in us and saving us. GOD is the one working in us.

Even the oft-quoted “work out your own salvation” in **Phil 2:12**, goes ON to finish the sentence in **verse 13**, “**For it is GOD who works in us** both to will [want to] and to do according to HIS good pleasure” (**Phil 2:12-13**).

Romans 1:16-17 says the gospel of the righteousness of God is from faith to faith. Some translations say, “from faith, from start to finish”. I focus on that: faith in GOD to work in me. It might look like I'm doing righteousness, but it's really God working in me as Phil 2:12-13 explains.

When we believe in Jesus as the resurrected Son of God and our Savior and proclaim him with our heart and lips, we shall be saved (**Romans 10:9-10**). Then verse 10 says we believe to righteousness. Notice “*belief*” or *faith* is tied to true righteousness once more.

Romans 10:9-10

“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart **one BELIEVES unto righteousness**, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

How does this process happen? We are now given GOD's new creation of us (1 Cor. 5:17), while we still have the old dead self, the old carnal nature at the same time. See the end of Galatians 5. These 2 natures war against each other. But once we repent, turn to God, here's what happens:

2 Corinthians 5:21

“**For He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that WE might become the righteousness of GOD in Him.**”

(There's much more in the video on this point at 10.45 minute mark to 12.15)

In video, I gave an ANALOGY of our sins being like a money debt – let's say a billion dollars. God pays and removes our debt. But we still have a problem, because we have no money to buy food or pay our mortgage. So what does God do? He puts in a billion dollars into our account. *So God not only removes our sin debt, but credits us with the righteousness of GOD himself in Christ. Read and re-read 2 Cor. 5:21 until you start praising God for what Jesus and Father have done.*

I must talk soon in more detail about the power of being “in HIM”. So then what?

What happens when we SIN, after receiving God's righteousness?

Though we have God's Holy Spirit and God's righteousness, we still sin, as you know. So what happens? Does every sin cut us off from God? Are we cut OUT of Salvation? Are we rejected by God as being ungodly and sinful? Does God take back his GIFTS of salvation (Eph 2:8), the Holy Spirit, or the gift of his righteousness (Rom 5:17) and all his other gifts because we sometimes sin?

WE ALL must understand these things:

- **God's** righteousness is for repentant “**UNGODLY**” too. Remember “justifies” means to be seen as right, as righteous, by God. It comes down to living by faith in Jesus and letting him rule and lead our lives as we follow him. Even very imperfect people – even ungodly who repent, can receive God's righteousness.

Romans 4:5

“But to him who does not work but **believes on Him who justifies the UNGODLY, his FAITH is accounted for righteousness**”

- **1 John 1 and 1 John 2:1-2** tells us what happens now when we sin. In 1 John 1, we're assured ALL our sins are forgiven. The verb tense is present ongoing: he cleanses us from all sin. We must walk in light now, no longer filling our minds with darkness. Christ's blood cleanses us from ALL sin – past, present and future. And the verb tense “CLEANSES” – is present ongoing. We all still sin now, and will still sin, but it must not be our continual way of life.

1 John 1:6-10

“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the

light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son CLEANSSES us from ALL sin.**

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness. **10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."**

In the Old covenant, the first few chapters of Leviticus, explains the offerings only were for unintentional sins, not for sins of intention. But in the new covenant, ALL sins are covered – those in ignorance and those intentionally.

But we all must let God work in us as God in us fights sin, keeps us out of evil places, helps us stop watching things Yeshua/Jesus would not watch, etc.

So we have to admit we are ungodly and even now, still sin, as Paul says in **Romans 7:14-20**. We must put on God's armor and FIGHT sin. We must resist the Devil. We humble ourselves. We must seek righteousness by letting God dwell and work in us – and His righteousness will result.

But we still sin. SO what happens to us now in the new covenant, those of us who belong to God, who are part of HIS flock and HIS people, what happens when WE sin? In the new covenant, are we cut off from God every time we sin? Every time we go astray? Are we cut off from the love of God?

1 John 2:1-2 NIV

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. **BUT if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense [an ADVOCATE] – Jesus Christ, the Righteous ONE.**

2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

Does that sound to you like he throws us away? NO! Our Yeshua, our Savior Jesus Christ, comes to your defense now when you sin!

YOU, dear brother and sister, are PRECIOUS in God's eyes – even – get this – even when you still sin. But we don't still feel precious when we sin, but re-read 1 John 2:1. **Jesus springs to our defense! Not to our condemnation!** Remember, Paul said after admitting he still sins in Romans 7, starts Romans 8:1 by saying "there is now NO condemnation to those in

Christ" (Rom 8:1). *Of course we must repent deeply, every day, when we sin.* "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" is our daily prayer.

Jesus the Righteous comes to your Defense. He says about you and your sin: "Father, I paid for his sins and I keep him cleansed in my blood. I took upon myself the wrath you feel about his sin. I took his shame, the accusations, the taunts, and finished for him. For by one offering, I have PERFECTED those who are being sanctified, as **Hebrews 10:14** says. There is now NO condemnation to those who are in me. We do not condemn him, Father."

And when we – as part of **HIS FLOCK** – go astray, does he ignore and reject us? NO, he comes looking for us and holds us in his arms. But somehow many believe they are facing an angry God when they go astray – instead of the joyful Shepherd that Jesus tells us about, about himself! He gives three loving parables because he saw and felt the condemnation of self-righteous Pharisees, the orthodox Jews of his day, because he ate with "sinners".

Luke 15:1-7

Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 **SO** He spoke this parable to them, saying:

4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, **and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?** 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'

7 I say to you that likewise there will be more JOY in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

He leaves the 99 in someone's care and goes after the one missing one – because you are precious in his eyes, yes, even when you're astray, even when you SIN; especially when you've gone astray. OUR Savior comes to find us, and bring us back. Remember, this lost sheep was a sheep from his own flock and Jesus had said He'll not lose a single one from his flock or from his hands (John 10:27-30). There's a lot of JOY in heaven when you're found – much more so even than the righteous who did not stray.

I know the Old Testament says our sins have separated us from God (**Isa 59:1-2**), **but I'm teaching what the Son of God says in the new covenant.** Besides, some of you are overplaying Isa 59. Please read the **gentleness of God in Isa 40:10-11; Isa 63:9, Isa 46:3-4.** Isaiah 63:9 says, "in their affliction, God was afflicted". He FEELS our pain. Isa 46:3-4: he upheld us from the womb, even to when we are gray headed. Please read them.

And remember, even in the Old Testament, **in Isaiah 1** God calls to Israel and pleads with them to come back and repent and give up their many sins – and if they would, their sins though they be as scarlet, shall be white as SNOW. (**Isaiah 1:16-18**).

YOU CAN'T BE TAKEN AWAY FROM GOD

Once we belong to God, as part of his FLOCK or part of his family, part of his church – NO ONE will be able to take us out of his hand. (More in the video)

John 10:26-30

"But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and NO ONE is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

30 I and My Father are one."

God the Father is supreme. Members of the godhead are not co-equal in authority. They are co-equal in what they ARE – GOD.

That's God's son talking about YOU. I hope you seek to hear his voice. That means you're tuned in to him like old-fashioned radios, your antenna is up, and you stop, get quiet and just listen, even when you pray. This is something we must do. Turn off a lot of the noise you have around you and listen. In time, you will start to hear God speak to you.

INVITE Yeshua now into your life. INVITE him to BE *your* righteousness now and you follow him living in you. It looks like you are doing it perhaps to others, but you're living in faith in Jesus. Please understand the difference, as it's huge! It's God working in us, and we get out of the way and follow his lead.

Come to really know God and Yeshua

Paul had said his overriding goal in life was to come to really intimately know Jesus/Yeshua (**Phil 3:9-10**) and the power of HIS resurrection. Meaning he wanted to invite the resurrected Jesus into his own life.

Do YOU know Yeshua? And Father? Come to see the God we serve as someone who must love you so much to want to be with you for eternity! Most of us are done with visitors after 2-3 days. God says eternity!

Do you know God as a God of gladness, where there's **joy forevermore** in his presence? (**Psalm 16:11**. I hope you look up these verses). Gladness and joy means surely we would see our God as a **God who laughs**, and frequently so. He's often glad and happy –even over you. Do you see God that way?

My God FEELS what's going on. "IN our affliction he was afflicted" (Isa. 63:9). He will **cry and weep** as Jesus did before Lazarus' resurrection (**John 11:35**) and before coming into Jerusalem (**Matthew 23:37-39**), and as he did with vehement cries and tears in Gethsemane (**Hebrews 5:7-9**). My God weeps and so do I. Guys, it's perfectly masculine to be able to cry. God does.

My God listens when we pray. My God and your God wants to hear your voice, as you seek HIS. Don't disappoint him. Pray frequently. And when God calls you, don't let his words go to a spiritual voicemail. Please don't. My God hears my repentance – which I have to do often. My God assures me of his love, as he does in **John 15:9,12; John 13:34; Romans 8:37** – "we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Notice the "through him" part. That's my focus in this series.

God speaks his love, many times. Even when we go astray or are lost, as in the parables of **Luke 15**, about the lost silver coin, the straying lost sheep of his flock and God's prodigal son, who was dead, but is alive again, as Jesus said. Your father in heaven tells you, speaks to you, HIS love for you. (More in video)

Please read **Zephaniah 3:14-17**. Is this the way you see God? If not, a large part of it is probably not recognizing how precious you are to him.

Zephaniah 3:17

"YHVH your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing."

Do any of you see God as singing to you? That's your God! That's your Father! God himself described himself to Moses as full of loving kindness (Exodus 34:5-6) even when we hurt that relationship by our sins, which must be stopping now as our way of life. We still slip up, but we should not be "living in sin" any longer.

(Let me add right now too though, that if I rebel and walk away from God – **which we'll cover in detail next time** – "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" when we insist on walking away from him in defiance. That is also the God I know, and he has spanked me hard at times.)

My God assures me that absolutely nothing *and no one* can separate him and me from the love of Christ (**Rom 8:31-39**); he will never leave me nor forsake me, he will FINISH what he started in me (**Phil 1:6**) and do it by helping me produce fruits of righteousness "**which are BY Jesus Christ**" (**Phil 1:11**). Notice the focus on the Messiah. Fruits of righteousness are BY the Messiah.

EVERYTHING I've just said applies also even when you or I occasionally sin but nothing takes us out of his hand. There IS one person, YOU, who can make a difference and we'll cover that next time. Please get that, FEEL that in your heart. I am HIS now. He will finish me. He will never let anything take me out of his hand. And the same is true for you.

Some ministers don't understand all this and are telling you that you fall out of his love when you sin – but **Romans 8:30-39** says nothing can separate us from the love of God as long as WE haven't severed that relationship by despising God and permanently leaving Him. Believe God's word instead.

So the GIFT of God's salvation, the GIFT of his Holy Spirit, the GIFT of God's righteousness are not taken back. You don't take back gifts or it's not a GIFT.

Romans 11:29

"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable".

Now let that sink in! And ministers and preachers: let's get this right and let people feel the JOY of God's salvation again. So many brethren are on pins and needles wondering if they'll qualify or "make it" into the kingdom of God.

Many of God's children worry that they will not qualify for the kingdom of God; that they won't "make it" or are "good enough".

Remember we are now part of the body of God's son. God bestowed to Yeshua the kingdom who also bestowed rulership over the 12 tribes to the apostles (**Luke 22:28-30**).

God qualified us by us being in Jesus Christ

GOD has already qualified you in Jesus Christ. We'll read it. Notice the tenses – past or future? It's the truth. Only Christ, frankly, has perfectly qualified for the kingdom. And since we are now part of his body, we are a part of HIM, so being IN HIM – we experience what HE experiences. (Col 1:12 is unclear in KJV – “who has made us meet partakers”)

Colossians 1:11-14 NKJV

“strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

12 giving thanks *to the Father who has QUALIFIED us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*

**13 He *has delivered* us from the power of darkness and CONVEYED US into the kingdom of the SON of His love,
14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”**

Do you believe these words?

God, who sees the end from the beginning (Isa.46:10), sees us as already in his kingdom Col 1:13. Notice the past tenses – qualified, delivered, conveyed. See the same tenses in Rom 8:29-30.

*And if you still wonder if total salvation is totally God's work, though working in and thru us, but still GOD, notice the clear teaching here about WHO is saving us from start to finish: (**this is bonus scripture here**)*

Romans 8:29-30 NKJV

For whom HE foreknew, HE also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom HE predestined, these HE also called; whom He called, these HE also justified; and whom He justified, these HE also glorified.

So the way we are viewed is IN Christ – part of HIM, his sinless body. So we have to LET Christ live in us, follow him, follow his lead, and HE

ABSOLUTELY will live in US the way he did when he walked the earth: righteously and obediently. I am NOT teaching that we can ever go back to the way of darkness and sin, and still claim we are saved. NO, no, no. I'm not teaching that. We must change. We must fight sin. We must overcome – but we do so IN Christ, who has already done that and now lives in us.

Colossians 3:1-4

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory”.

Paul goes on in the rest of Colossians 3 stating clearly *how we must put to death the things of the flesh in our life (Col 3:5-11)* and how we must PUT ON the qualities of God into our lives. We cannot go on sinning as a way of life anymore, ESPECIALLY now that God has bestowed his righteousness to us.

But since we all know we still slip up in sin and ungodly behavior and lost temper, impatience, self-righteousness and pride and more – we get depressed, feeling we have failed and are failing. But if you really understood that our lives are “now hidden in Christ, in GOD”, our Father now sees Christ as our life. Paul just said, “Christ, who is our life...” (Col 3:4)... so believe that!

The JOY OF SALVATION

Are you already “saved”? Many of you will say “no, not yet”.

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you HAVE BEEN saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are HIS workmanship, created in Christ Jesus FOR good works, which God prepared beforehand that WE should walk in them.”

Saved through faith. And remember, faith is proven by our deeds and works (James 2). Good works PROVE we have been saved, but salvation itself is by faith, “not of works” (v. 9). But again, a changed and changing life in Christ is quite the powerful testimony of salvation going on in us. Read verse 10. We

are HIS workmanship, meaning GOD is the one working all these good things in us, converting and regenerating us, as also Phil 2:13 clearly says.

Other scriptures that say we *have been saved*, already, right now: Ephesians 2:5,8; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5; Romans 8:24; Acts 16:31.

Again, in Christ, we "have been saved", though there are also verses that say we are "being saved" and "Shall be waded" IF we endure to the end and hold fast and IF we remain faithful, we are there with Christ at his return (Rev. 17:14).

ARE BEING saved: Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:15

SHALL BE saved IF we endure to the end and are faithful -- Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:13; Romans 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:15; if we hold fast- 1 Corinthians 15:2. Rev. 17:14 – "called, chosen, faithful"

RESTORE the JOY of Salvation

So are you still wondering if you've "made it" and so you're not experiencing the JOY of salvation? If so, you're still looking too much at yourself instead of in Jesus Christ in you.

David had done a series of terrible sins including murder, adultery and lying when he records his prayer of repentance in **Psalm 51. The murder of Uriah was the worst part** of the sin of weakness with Bathsheba (**1 Kings 15:5**).

But even within the same prayer of repentance, David goes from tears of sorrow to tears of JOY. We don't keep lingering in regret and sadness over our stupid failures. Move on to JOY, knowing you are saved, knowing God loves you and will keep loving you, because you are precious – like the stories of **Luke 15**.

Psalms 51:7-14

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**8 Make me hear JOY and gladness,
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.**

9 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**11 Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.**

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

**13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You.**

14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
The God of my salvation,

And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness."

What will ROB you of your joy of salvation? You who are not feeling any joy about God's salvation will think I'm crazy but I've backed these up with scripture.

- **We are now in Christ, in GOD (Col 3:3-4)**
- NOT realizing you have been saved (Eph 2:8) and still have the imputed righteousness of God that he gives even to the ungodly (**Rom 4:5**) who come seeking Him in repentance.
- Not realizing God will never cut off his love for you – **Rom 8:30-39.**
When YOUR children do wrong, do you quit loving them?
- God has already qualified you for the kingdom (**Col 1:12**). HOW, why? Because YOU are IN Christ, part of HIM, part of HIS body. And he's perfect and *his one sacrifice has perfected you also* (**Heb 10:14**).
- **And, God has already given you eternal life.** But sometimes ministers preach that we don't have eternal life. I'll give you a few verses out of MANY, many I could quote that say that clearly, over and over. Remember eternal life and God's righteousness are GIFTS. I would not argue this point against the Son of God... these are HIS words.

Sure, I could be hit by a truck and die. But that's not eternal death. Because I have eternal life credited to me, and God's righteousness, *I'll live forever, when I hear his voice and rise from the dead for eternal life (John 5:24-25).*

But GIFTS ARE USELESS if you won't receive them or believe you have them – and USE them.

ALREADY HAVING ETERNAL LIFE WHEN WE BELIEVE

(Yeshua, the very Son of God, is speaking here)

John 6:47

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me HAS everlasting life.”

John 5:24-25

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me HAS everlasting life, and shall NOT come into JUDGMENT, but has passed from death into life.

25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live."

John 3:35-36

"The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

36 He who believes in the Son HAS everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

1 John 5:11-13

"And this is the testimony: that God HAS given us ETERNAL life, and this life is in His Son.

12 **He who has the Son HAS LIFE;** he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know THAT YOU HAVE eternal life,** and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God".

Now that we receive his GIFT of eternal life (Rom 6:23), and remember his **gifts are not revocable (Rom 10:29)** – let's value it and lay HOLD TIGHT to this eternal life gifts, *seize it, and stay close to God.*

1 Timothy 6:12

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

We must no longer do what we want carnally. We cannot go back to living in unrighteousness as our way of life, though we still will slip up and God knows that we are but dust and weak. We must FIGHT sin. FIGHT Satan. FIGHT temptation. Humble yourself. We don't just shadow box (1 Cor. 9:26-27). LAY hold on to eternal life. GRAB it, seize it and never let it go.

WHO produces righteousness in our lives?

It's God's very own righteousness imputed to us. I've talked about that a lot already. We are to have faith in Yeshua, in Jesus Christ, about this. So HOW is God's righteousness duplicated in our lives? WHO does it, and WHY?

Philippians 1:11

"being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are BY JESUS Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

1 Corinthians 1:29-31

"that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are IN Christ JESUS, who became FOR US wisdom from God — and RIGHTEOUSNESS and sanctification and redemption — 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

This next passage is absolutely crucial to read, understand and accept. I'll be surprised if any of you have had this passage expounded recently.

Romans 8:2-4

"For the law of the Spirit of life IN Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, GOD did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

We no longer LIVE in sin, though we still slip up, as Paul says in Rom 7:14-20, but now ***we are no longer condemned (Rom 8:1) when we are IN Christ — or God would be condemning Christ! Are you getting it? WE — and GOD — look to Jesus to have perfectly fulfilled all the requirements of the law (Rom 8:4a), and now we no longer walk according the flesh, but by the Spirit (Rom 8:4b).***

Neither can we just sit back in our sins, but LET our Messiah be our life. We don't give in to hot temper, impatience, vanity, gossip, drunkenness, lust and sex sins as our way of life any longer. We're asking Christ to lead us out of that.

And now we focus entirely on HIM from start to finish by faith to faith – as we overcome, for HE has overcome the world (John 16:33) and Satan has NOTHING in him (John 14:30) and we are now IN HIM, PART of him.

Philippians 3:9

“and be found in Him, NOT having my OWN righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;”

Many of you might be being blocked from seeing or accepting this because you're thinking of the verse that tells us to work out our own salvation:

Philippians 2:12-13

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

If I'm working out my own salvation, then I become my own savior. But why doesn't anyone keep reading the next verse, v 13. Let's get it right. Salvation is not by our efforts. Our effort is to stay attached to Him like the vine that he is. Now read the next verse, v 13.

13 for IT IS GOD WHO WORKS IN YOU both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

So those of you who love Phil 2:12 to work out your own salvation – remember this same Paul proclaimed in Phil 3:9, what we just read – that he didn't want his own righteousness of keeping the law blamelessly (Phil 3:6). He wanted GOD working in him. God's righteousness by faith in Christ, who did it perfectly!

In John 15, Jesus speaks of being the Vine and we are the branches on that vine.

The FOCUS of our work going forward is to stay firmly attached to the Son of God by frequent prayer and study of his word. Turn off the distractions Satan sends our way. WHEN we stay fully attached to the trunk of the tree or Vine, *the Vine produces fruit that it sends to the branches – you and me – for them to display.* Fruit comes naturally in season when the branches are secured to the main vine.

John 15:4-7

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide IN Me.

5 **"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I IN him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do NOTHING.**

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned."

John 15:4-5 – is very clear. We can do nothing apart from Christ living in us.

Now, we need to think of our relationship with God and with Christ as Paul explained in Athens in **Acts 17:28**: **"In Him (God) we live, and move, and have our being..."** because God is the source of our salvation, peace, joy, the new creation, **it's all him, working IN us, through the perfect life of Christ, in whom we live, move and have our being.**

Are you understanding why I'm saying it's all God, start to finish? Because that's what the Bible says. God does it – **Rom 8:29-30**. And we do it by FAITH, from faith to faith (**Rom 1:16-17**) – from start to finish it's God's work in us.

I'll soon have a whole sermon that follows up on this on the need to be overcomers and prevailers with God. Jesus will be at the center of that too.

In my next teaching I must cover the problem with the teaching of **"Eternal Security – the once-saved-always-saved teaching"**. I'll show you **how, even if nothing and no one can take us out of the Father's hand**, and how he intends to finish what he started – how WE can change all that and end up losing salvation. No one else can lose your salvation – but you can, and I'll explain how next time. We'll explore **2 Peter 2, Hebrews 3, 6, 10, Jude**, and so many more showing we CAN give it all up, knowing full well what we're doing, if we're reckless with it. WE, can in fact, if knowing full well what we're doing, lose it all as I'll clearly show.

Next time we'll go a bit deeper into understanding being in Christ and he in us.

It's all through the Bible – old and New Testament – that God is not mocked. We can't run roughshod all over his way and REJECT what God has given us – and think that's where it ends.

So we'll cover that next time. Also want to cover coming before the Judgment Seat of Christ some time. Maybe next time, or later.

There's so much more to say, but we've covered:

- He's giving us the gifts of eternal life, of forgiveness of our sins, of his precious Holy Spirit.
- Receive God's own righteousness by faith in Christ. Yes, it's a fact. Romans 5:17, and imputed to us the same righteousness he gave Abraham (Romans 4:23-25). Please accept that.
- INVITE Christ to live in you, and follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Let HIM be your life – you might wish to read Col 3:1-4.
- Pray God restores to you the JOY of his salvation, knowing IN Christ you have been and are being saved, and HE wants to live in you (Phil 1:11).
- Come to really know God Most High – our Father – as such a WONDERFUL and happy Father who thinks you're precious to him. He weeps and laughs and has feelings.
- BY staying attached to Yeshua you have HIS FRUITS of righteousness being displayed on you, as one of the branches of that vine. (John 15:5,8)
- Realize you have to STAY ATTACHED – or you will be gathered up and burned. (John 15:6). IF God and Yeshua are IN us, their righteousness will almost automatically shine out of our lives, like grapes on the vine.

What a HIGH and precious calling we have. What a wonderful Savior we have. What an incredibly merciful Father in Heaven, full of joy and love and peace and who wants to live with you in his kingdom for forever and ever. Wow. Praise be to Him and our Savior.

Closing Prayer