

FIRST STEPS WITH JESUS
Lesson 7: YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS

Purpose: To teach the new believer that they are the righteousness of God right now. Understanding the subject of righteousness is so important to our interaction with God and others and is very important to our faith walk. If we do not understand righteousness then the enemy can hinder our relationship with God and our faith walk. We will learn from the Bible that you are already righteous, what it means to be righteous, how we become righteous, the benefits of righteousness, and how to walk in your righteousness.

Part 1: YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE RIGHTEOUS?

- A. The Greek word for *righteous* means: innocent, holy, upright, that which is right.
- B. To be righteous means to be able to stand in the presence of God as one who is innocent, holy, and righteous, without the sense of guilt or shame; as though sin never existed.

II. HOW DO WE BECOME RIGHTEOUS?

A. Through the New Creation.

1. 2 Cor 5:17

- a. When you believed in Jesus you were made a new creation. Your spirit, the real you became a brand new man. You are no longer a dirty old sinner but you became the righteousness of God.
- 2. **2 Corinthians 5:21** - 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. NKJV
 - a. We become righteous through the work of Jesus Christ. When Jesus was crucified on the cross He took our sins so we could become the righteousness of God.
- 3. **Ephesians 4:24** - 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. NKJV
 - a. God created you to be His righteousness and holiness.
 - b. We also see in this verse God wants us to put on the new man – that means to live in such a way so that the righteousness and holiness on the inside shows up on the outside and we also have righteous behavior.
 - c. The first step to having righteous behavior is to become a new creation.
 - d. The second step to having righteous behavior is to believe you are already righteous and see yourself as righteous. God know we cannot produce righteous behavior in our own ability so by His grace he give us righteousness as a free gift.

B. By receiving the gift of righteousness by faith.

- 1. **Romans 5:17** - 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) NKJV

- a. The only way you can become righteous is by receiving the free gift of righteousness from God.

2. **Romans 3:21-26, 28** –

- a. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,
 - i. V. 21: “apart from the law” means we do not become righteous by keeping the law.
- b. 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - i. V. 22-23: All who believe in Jesus are made righteous regardless of their past – there is no difference.
 - ii. The moment you believe in Jesus God makes you righteous.
- c. 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,
 - i. V. 24: God makes us righteous and gives us righteousness as a free gift by His grace and the redemptive work of Christ. We do not make ourselves righteous.
- d. 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus
 - i. V. 26: Because of Christ’ redemptive work God is right to make you righteous and He makes everyone who has faith righteous.
- e. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. NKJV
 - i. V. 28: The conclusion is we are justified by faith and not by our own good deeds.

C. We have seen how we become righteous. We also need to know the benefits of righteousness. Nex week we will learn the benefits of righteousness and how to walk in our righteousness.

(Note: The comprehension test at the end of the lesson will be given after next weeks lesson which is part two of “You Are Righteous”.