

RIGHTEOUSNESS SERIES

THE SEED OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

-

The main purpose of teaching a series on righteousness is for us to develop a consciousness and conviction of the gift of righteousness in our life, in our talk, in our walk, in our work and in our action. We want to be conscious of the authority and presence of God that flows through us as a gift so that we will know that we rule and reign in this life. We have authority in Jesus' name over every sickness and disease, over every demon and power, over all the natural forces in this life, over every mountain and over every valley. We want to be conscious of His authority and righteousness of God that He has placed in our lives. That we stand before Jesus without condemnation. That when God looks at us He looks as if we were Jesus walking on this earth not because of our works, not because of what we have done but because the gift of righteousness has been imparted into our lives.

Rom. 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who received abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

We talk about ruling and reigning in righteousness in Jesus. It is the gift of God. God gives it to us as a gift. It is given free to you to rule and reign. And we need to be conscious of that gift that we have received.

In this message, we want to look at what we call the seed of righteousness. In other words, we want to look at the growth of righteousness. It is not the growth of merit but it's a growth of a seed. Righteousness is a gift of God that He deposited into our

heart.

Lets look at Rom. 3 and we want to tie it back to the last message and pick up from there. Rom. 3:21-24, *But not the righteousness of God apart from the law.* Please note the righteousness of God is apart, separated, different from that which is from the law. You see there is an area of righteousness from the law that pertains more to the righteousness of works. When God says in His Word that your righteousness is as filthy rags, He is talking about two kinds of righteousness - a righteousness that comes through the law and a righteousness that comes as a gift from God. Both are related in that the law came from God and can only be fulfilled by God's grace and strength. But there is a law that is revealed through Moses. But it says now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed. It is now revealed in Jesus. Jesus has become our righteousness. Jesus is the revelation of the fullness of the righteousness of God. The first statement that he made here is the righteousness of God *apart from the law.*

Note the second phrase it says here *being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.* That means that even in the Old Testament there was an evidence of the gift of righteousness being imputed upon His people. The word *imparted* has the sense of receiving inside. The word *imputed* has the sense of receiving as a covering. Even though the time for Jesus has not come yet to reveal the fullness of the majesty, holiness, righteousness of God, yet even in the old covenant there have been glimpses of that righteousness of God, which is not the righteousness of man or that of the law. So you have two phrases. The first phrase is *apart from the law.* That tells you its different. Its something that is different. Its not produced by the law. The law does not manufacture it. It is apart from the law.

The second phrase that Paul brings to you is that it is *being witnessed.* It has been seen. There were glimpses of it in the Old Testament. Some Old Testament folks like Abraham and David saw flashes of that gift of righteousness and even experienced the gift of righteousness of God apart from the law. There were little glimpses that God gave to them until the day of Jesus' first coming. It just like you give presents to your children on Christmas Day and since they could only open the boxes on Boxing Day, they would wonder what's in the box. Your son would eagerly ask, "Is it a toy car? What shape is it? Is it something to play?" So he wants

to find out what it is. He may even want to shake the box to hear what it's inside the box. There are glimpses of the gift of righteousness in the Old Testament that God showed in order to reveal His ultimate Christmas present to us in Jesus Christ of Nazareth. But there were glimpses of that righteousness from God in the Old Testament.

I bring to you the revelation that Paul had - no one could be righteous through the law. There is no one who could actually live to fulfill the law. The law was given not because we could fulfill the law a hundred percent. But the law was given to prevent the world from coming to further destruction. It acted as a barrier, a barricade to hold back further lawlessness for a moment of time. For example, if this pulpit were falling in my direction, I would hold it back for a moment. But by my holding it back is not a permanent solution. It's a temporary solution until some of you come up and help me to put it back properly. Sometimes you have structures that are in danger of falling down, like the Tower of Pisa. The engineers may have to put up temporary supports to prevent the structure from falling further. Now the temporary support is for a short time. It is important for it to come. You may ask, "Then why did God give the law?" It was necessary because if the law didn't come the world may not survive till Jesus reveals Himself.

As Paul explained in the book of Galatians, the law is given to hold back the process of sin and delay it. But God knew that no one could ever fulfill it. So tells us in Rom. 3:22 *even the righteousness of God; through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;* then verse 23 includes man of God, woman of God, people who knew Him in the Old Testament, people who knew Him in the New Testament he says, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

In Romans 1, it tells us here in a different way. Rom. 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.* He talks about the revelation that was about to come.

Romans 3 again he concludes in verse 10 onwards *As it is written: There is none righteous no, not one; there is none who understands;* No one, you ask, "What about the

Old Testament folks?" None of them was able to reach what God really wanted them. Some of them have done the perfect will of God but none could reach into the heavenly standard that God has for man to be reconciled to God. So how did these other men in the Old Testament function? How did all the prophets, the priest, the kings, and the good people function? They functioned through a gift of righteousness. They had a small little impartation of the gift of righteousness but it was not given as much as in the New Testament.

In Rom. 4 it tells you. In the last message, we showed how David had that gift of righteousness. It was the same with Abraham. Rom. 4:2-3 *For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness."* Now isn't that a gift of righteousness? It is. It is not in the full sense of what we can receive of the revelation of Jesus Christ. But it is definitely a gift. Abraham didn't own it. These were some of the glimpses of the gift of righteousness that Paul talked about when he mentioned that the Law and the Prophets witnessed to. It was the righteousness of God apart from the law that is being revealed.

It was the same with Noah. Of course, Noah was a god-fearing man compared to the other men of his time. But when his life is compared to God's standards of righteousness, he still would not qualify to be saved. That is why the book of Genesis did not say, "Noah was a very godly man who never did anything wrong. Therefore God was obligated to rescue him from judgment by means of the ark." Instead, the book of Genesis says, "Noah found grace (or favor)." When the bible says, "Noah found grace," what does it mean? It means that Noah had the gift of righteousness imputed to him because he believed God. That was one of the early glimpses of the gift of righteousness found in the Old Testament.

The Old Testament heroes of faith had the gift of righteousness. I use this word as carefully as the bible uses it. In the Old Testament, the gift of righteousness is imputed but in the New Testament, it is imparted. Even Paul used the scriptures very carefully. In Rom. 3:22 he says *to all and on all*. That is imputing and an imparting. In the Old Testament, the gift of righteousness cannot live inside them. They only received a small little token of that gift of righteousness and it was imputed on them.

In the last message, we also counted David among those who had that revelation of the gift of righteousness. We talked about the scepter of righteousness and rule and reign of righteousness. Righteousness will cause you to reign. Its not really the king himself that reign – it is the righteousness that gives them the ability to reign. Now Paul wrote in Romans 4: 6, *just as David also describes the blessedness of the man*. Paul did not say the blessedness of the man who earns righteousness nor the blessedness of the man who keeps the law and therefore merits favor with God. But he says *the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works*. Even David had an understanding and a revelation of the gift of righteousness and to receive it from God. He allowed it to flow in his life and therefore he ruled and reigned.

What we are saying before you is one of the greatest revelations of Christianity. Even some Christians today study Paul's writings but don't understand the revelation he has brought. The revelation is that the righteousness of God is a gift that we need. No one can function without that gift of righteousness, either in the Old Testament or New Testament. So all the Old Testament heroes of faith had this gift of righteousness imputed upon their lives. It was in a sense not them but it was the gift of righteousness of God that caused them to be what they were. That is quite a revelation. In other words, they were what they were because of the gift of righteousness. They received that gift of righteousness first and then they became righteous by yielding to that gift. They didn't become righteous first and then receive the gift of righteousness later. The same principle that *as many as received Him to them He gave power to be the children of God* also applies here. As many as receive the gift of righteousness from God, He gave power to be righteous. There must be reception before becoming. The receiving comes before the becoming.

All the Old Testament folks, Elijah, Isaiah, Daniel etc were unworthy, every one of them. They were what they were not because of their genetics. Not because they were born of the right lineage. Not because of any ability on their own. They were what they were because somehow they have learned how to yield to the gift of righteousness that God desires to give to His people.

Now your next question would be, "Did God give this gift of righteousness only to those people or was He willing to give to everyone?" For God to be God and to be a fair, God He has to be willing to give it to all.

Then our next question, "When is He willing to give it to all?" Through the blood covenant. Not everybody receive but He always left the blessings there. He told them the way to get themselves into the position. To receive means you got to be in the right position. This is just for illustration. Now I am going to give this man sitting here this pen. As I give it to him, he has to stretch out his hands to take it and then he has to be in a position to receive it. I am not changing my position but he is changing his. He has to be in the right position. What happens if he doesn't put his hand out to receive? Obviously, he has to do the minimum to receive it. "Bill, this is for you. Take it, Bill." He must do something to receive. I am not asking him to run two hundred rounds around the building or to leap over the wall and run to the tree. It depends at least on the minimum that is required for him to do to receive the pen.

The other thing that is required is what I call position. Sometimes we are like a little teddy bear. God loves you and you are cute. Sometimes God is working in your life and God will only work in a certain way. But you are in the wrong position so when God is working, He is rubbing your fur. And you don't like it because He is rubbing your fur the wrong way. What are you going to do? I mean it is just like someone rubbing your hair the wrong way. Imagine someone keeps rubbing your hair the wrong way. God is God and He changes not. Yesterday, today and forever He never change. So if you find that your fur is rubbed the wrong way you know what you should do. You turn around. So if you find that you are not receiving you are not in the right position. There is a minimum requirement and adjustment to bring a person to the position to receive. That is what the law and the blood covenant are for. The law didn't give us the ability to accumulate the merit to receive. But the law was the minimum requirement, so that it could position us in a position to receive.

Let me show Paul's illustration in the book of Galatians on the law. Gal. 3:23 *But before faith came we were kept under guard by the law kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring to Christ. Not to save us*

the law was to convict us, to prepare us so that we are ready to receive Christ. In a spiritual sense, the law was the minimum part to get you to put your hands up and say, "God I need you." To put your hands up and say, "God I surrender. God I cannot make it on my own. O God here are my hands. Nothing in my hands I bring; simply to the cross I cling." That was the minimum for Bill to receive the pen. It was our tutor.

Galatians 4:1 *Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all.* Listen very carefully if you do not get hold of this revelation of righteousness even though it is yours, you will live like a slave although you could be a master in the affairs of life. Paul is illustrating that way that we were under guidance until the time appointed by the Father. The law was the guidance but we were slaves although we were supposed to be masters in God. The job of the law is to get us to the position to receive. That is why God is a fair God. He gives to everyone even in the old covenant a conscience and some measure of law. Paul says in Romans even those who do not have Moses or like the Jews in other countries of the world existing in that time they have a law onto themselves, revealed in their conscience.

Do you know this is a strange thing? All over the world, people understand the blood covenant, even without the revelation of Jesus. Animal sacrifices were present even before Moses' time. Animal sacrifices were present in the Chinese culture, in the Indian culture, in the Malay culture, in Africa, in the Mayas. Let me tell you it is God who saw to it that the world understands something about blood sacrifice. Of course, some of them added their pagan worship into their ceremonies and animal sacrifices. But the basic concept of blood sacrifice is there. You could go all the way into the interior jungles of the Amazon and right in the midst of the people separated from all mankind technology and modern civilization you will find a tribe that understands that shedding of blood is necessary and powerful. God had implanted the revelation of the blood covenant to all men firstly through their conscience and secondly by a measure of the law. The blood covenant may not have been revealed through Moses because they don't have Moses. It would have been revealed through their philosophers or traditions somehow preserved from the time of Adam right through the time of Noah and Noah's children. The Lord revealed the blood covenant from the time Adam and Eve fell into sin when He covered them with the skin of an animal. The blood of that animal covered their sin.

Do you know why the revelation of these blood covenants was given to peoples of all time? They were the minimum requirements to bring us to the position to receive the gift of righteousness. I can show you in the bible that whenever there were people who had the Spirit of God working in their lives, there was a measure of the gift of righteousness or gift of God working in their life although they didn't yield fully to it - yet they had it. Such people include Balaam. Balaam was not an Israelite. Do you realize that Balaam was called a prophet? Balaam knew God and he had communion with God and he was not even an Israelite. He doesn't know anything about Moses. But Balaam did receive the general gift of righteousness that God desired for everyone to receive.

The first question is, "Why does God want to reveal to us this gift of righteousness when we come into this world?" In this life, we only operate by His gift of righteousness. We cannot be what we want to be unless God gives the gift first. We must receive first from His hand before becoming what He has given to us.

The second question is, "Did God give everyone a fair chance to receive this gift of righteousness?" Yes, He did. And even on judgment day, He will still judge on this basis of how we have yielded to the gift of righteousness that He has given to everybody.

Now the third question is, "If that is so why do people like Balaam become so unrighteous?"

That's the question we want to deal with - the growth of righteousness. You see God wanted to reveal that no one can be what he or she is unless the gift of righteousness comes into his or her life. The gift of God in some spirit form comes in us first. And it's almost like asking the question, "Which came first - the chicken or the egg?" If you believe in the bible, you got the answer to that question. The chicken came first because when God made the birds of the air He didn't make thousands of eggs. He made the flying creatures and then they lay eggs. In the same

way physically, each one of us will to a certain extent look like our physical father. This is because you have inherited physical genes from your parents. And physically you took on part of their structure. It was their genes that made you what you look like. It controls the programming of your physical body. If the genes are affected then the change starts happening. But the seed of your genetic makeup comes first. In the same way look at the Old Testament people or just the New Testament but all the people in the Old Testament too all of them were what they were because somehow they received the seed of righteousness. And it changed them and made them become what they were. Now not all who received the seed of righteousness became righteous because they didn't know the principles that we are going to teach today about yielding to the gift of righteousness.

Let me show you one man: his name is Saul in the book of I Samuel. Now he definitely couldn't be king by himself. He is the example of an extreme case. He had no ability to rule and reign over any nation. He was a person who had lots of personality flaws and problems. Could he become a better person? Yes, because God has a will for everyone. And with that will, He gives different gifting and different workings of His angels and Spirit even on the day you were born. Read John chapter one. You will find that Jesus is the Light that lighted every man that came into this world. Somehow, God did try to bring that gift of righteousness to Saul. We either resist that gift, or turn away from that gift or we don't know how to receive that gift. If Saul had received it, he would have been slowly changed to a more likeable person instead of being what he was.

Now David was trained to be a fighter for God. And even in his young teenage years, he had occasions where he developed bravery and courage in his life. And he passed all those tests, the tests of defeating the lion and the bear. By the time he faces Goliath he was a very brave and courageous man. How many young men would want to go and fight against Goliath who had a sword and shield and you have only five stones and one sling. No wonder Goliath said, "Do you think I am a dog?" But there was something in David, some gift in his life that made him brave. He yielded to that seed and that seed grew in his life.

Sadly, there are some like Saul. When God gave him a fresh dose of the anointing of God, he didn't know how to use it. This is what God said to Saul in I Sam.10:6 *Then*

the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. That's what the gift does to you. That's how powerful the seed of God could be.

Today scientists are tinkering with very dangerous tools more dangerous than before. Man has discovered how to tinker with genes. It can be dangerous because we don't understand everything yet. You may have discovered a gene that causes something and when you tinker with it, this gene may also produce something else. They ran tests on mice using altered genes to stop them from producing nitro oxide. Now nitro oxide is important in the functioning of some gland in the brain. The purpose of this test is to see whether this can relieve the nerves. They breed it so that the mice could have a shortage of that acid. They found a side effect. They found that the mice grew abnormally long hair, faster than normal. If they can create freaks of nature using altered genes, the field is thrown wide open for them to produce Frankensteins, miscreants and other abnormalities.

If mankind continues toying with the genomes for the next two hundred years, I don't know where mankind will be heading for. They would be daring enough to try to produce a super race or some mutants that once only existed in the imagination of artists from Marvel comics. This is where the danger is. God has made all genes in its perfect state for balance. Scientists may produce a champion but in the process, that champion may lose some essential parts of intelligence or conscience. He may end up a fiendish psychopath. We may never know the physical side effect. It's the most dangerous realm that man is dealing with. But it is such a powerful realm. Who would have thought that altering one little tiny structure in your gene could change other parts of your being. And that is from one tiny genetic seed.

It is the same way in the spiritual realm. When God imparts into our lives and spirits the seed, it could produce different things. You will literally become another man. Isn't that the story of Christianity in the New Testament? What is the New Testament message? II Cor. 5:17 *Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new.* Don't we go to sinners, robbers, all kinds of people who are struggling in their lives, who are having all

kinds of problems, and didn't we come to them and tell them all they have to do is to accept Jesus? Somehow, when they accept Jesus they will be able to take out that old man. Sadly, that doesn't seem to happen to all Christians. You see a sudden change in some Christians but in other Christians, you see that they change slowly. In some areas, it is very immediate and in some, it is slow.

What is the problem? Some people solve this problem by telling themselves, "Since I am rather slow in this area, I must use good works to speed up progress here." No, the solution to that problem is that we need to teach people how to yield to the gift of righteousness. You cannot change yourself. But your spiritual genetic must be altered first and the gift of God had to alter it. We need to learn how to yield to the gift. That gift will turn you into another man. In the Old Testament, they had a temporary measure of that. But in the New Testament, the potential is there to change a person genetically spiritually. God says to Saul in I Sam. 10:6 *then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands, for God is with you.* This is a different story and not the story of Dr. Jackal and Mr. Hyde. Dr. Jackal is a good benevolent man. He goes to his laboratory, drinks some compounds, turns into a monster and becomes Mr. Hyde.

Here is a yielding to the Spirit of God. Remember who Saul was. He was a cowardly, shy man and has a very low self-esteem. But the Spirit of God came on him and he turned into another man. Now the problem is not whether that change cannot occur, but whether the change can be permanent. Now I want to point to a truth in our lives, to encourage those of you who may be struggling in different areas and habits in your life. The problem is not that the change cannot be done but that the change doesn't last. I can talk to any Christian who is struggling in any area in his or her life. Now that were times when you were strong and you could overcome temptations easily. There were times when you were weak and you fell. Then you got up, became strong again but in a moment of indiscretion, you fell into sin again. You pray to God, "Lord, forgive me," and then you went on again. Then you were strong again. The problem is not that you don't have the desire to be weak sometimes. Sometimes after being charged up and strengthened in a prayer meeting or worship service you could take on the world, you could live sinless, holy, and pure. You have no desire for anything in this world but God, God. Monday you are O.K. Tuesday, Wednesday your eyes start looking at the world. On

Thursday, your eyes inadvertently saw some unbecoming pictures on the Internet and your heart turned aside. This is just a simple illustration but it gets the point across. It is not that the change never came. I know from time to time Christians receive a touch from God and under that touch, you know that you are nothing. But how do you keep it?

Saul had that change in his life but he had no ability to maintain it permanently because he did not learn how to yield to the gift of righteousness constantly. The secret is in understanding how the gift of righteousness comes to your life. When you understand plants, you know all the plants have different abilities. All plants have different abilities. I discovered that different plants are good for different things. There are some plants that you can put indoors but there are some plants that you cannot. Some plants like watery ground and some plants like dry ground. So for your gardening to be successful you must understand the plant. You must understand what the seed is for. And how that seed can grow. How it can produce. An experienced gardener told me that all fruit plants need a lot of sunlight. We tried planting some tropical fruit tree indoors and it died. Being a persistent person I said, "May be it's the soil." And we planted another one and it died. Then I say, "Lets try planting a guava tree and it nearly died." But the point is every plant and every seed have different requirements. We need to understand its requirements and meet its requirement so that it will bear fruit.

We receive many types of seeds from God. The seed of righteousness brings us into a position of walk with God. We must understand how to allow it to change us. I am talking about character transformation and not just gifting. It is the same like the anointing of God. There are different types of anointing. You must understand each type of anointing because each type of anointing operates differently. For an anointing to preach a message in a stadium requires a change in personality to do different things. An anointing to counsel people is different. Anointing for healing cannot operate for other areas. Each requires a different perspective. It is the same with seeds. The seed of righteousness needs certain requirement for us to yield to it.

Lets look at the bible and see how scriptural it is to refer to righteousness as a seed and righteousness as a growth. Lets turn to Isa. 61 Here it talks about the anointing of God that is upon Jesus. But there it suddenly has a reference to our lives.

Verse 1-3

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me.

Because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor;

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted.

To proclaim liberty to the captives;

And the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

And the day of vengeance of our God.

To comfort all who mourn.

To console those who mourn in Zion.

To give them beauty for ashes,

The oil of joy for mourning,

The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

That they may be called trees of righteousness.

The planting of the Lord that He may be glorified.

Now if righteousness can be symbolized as a tree then there should be no problem for righteousness to be symbolized as a seed too. All trees come from seeds. The bible has always illustrated us as trees. The bible even illustrate that we are the fertile ground. The Word of God is like a seed that comes into our hearts and God plants it and helps us to grow.

We now look at the book of II Corinthians and I want to point to a certain

progression of Paul's teaching about righteousness. II Cor. 3 Bear in mind that this is the second epistle to the Corinthians. In the first epistle, he has already spoken to them about Jesus being our wisdom and righteousness. Now he comes to chapter 3 and he says in verse 8-9 *How will the ministry of the Spirit note more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.* Now he talks about righteousness coming forth in our life as a ministry, the ministry of righteousness.

Then he moves on to II Cor. 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* He is not talking about our righteousness. He is talking about the impartation of God's righteousness to His people.

Then as we move on to II Cor. 9:10 *Now may He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.* That means that righteousness can grow. Righteousness is a fruit. Righteousness is a tree. Righteousness begins as a seed. And as we nourish and cherish it, it grows to a tree and a tree produces fruit - fruits of righteousness.

In the book of Phil. 1:11, *Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.* Isn't it firmly established that righteousness is a gift and righteousness is a seed. Our message today is that righteousness is a seed that can grow into a plant. In the last message, we saw the scepter of righteousness. Even here, you can find the consistency. Remember Rom. 5 that those who have receive the gift of righteousness and the abundance of grace shall rule and reign in Christ. If you look at II Corinthians very carefully the passage that we read about the fruit of righteousness increasing he talks about both also. He says here in II Cor. 9:8 *God is able to make all grace abound towards you.* Verse 10 *increase the fruit of your righteousness.* Same thing. It is the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness that helps you rule and reign in life, spiritual life, natural life, physical life, business life, every area of life. Abundance of grace and the fruit of righteousness are all tied up together.

Righteousness is a seed, is a tree and is a fruit. We have established the fact that righteousness is a seed. It's a gift from God into our life. We are what we are because of the seed that God has planted in our life. The secret is how to receive it. And then how to keep it until it produces fruit in our life and changes and makes us become what He wanted us to be. Now how does that process take place? The secret is in yielding to the gift on our inside. Yielding is a powerful gift. In the natural world and in the spiritual world the key to excellence is in yielding.

Lets say you are a badminton player. You have a talent for playing badminton. Yet a gift has to be trained and developed. If you hold the racket with too much energy, you cannot play well because you are not supposed to use your energy to grasp the handle tightly. Your energy should be used to hit the shuttlecock. So if you tensed yourself in holding the racket, a lot of energy is wasted. Even if you have a talent for a particular game, you must also learn how to get into the "flow". Sportsmen and women know what a flow is like. Even when they play there is a rhythm they enter into. It becomes beautiful. And even in dancing, there is a flow. Of course, when you worship the Lord it doesn't matter whether you have a good voice or a bad voice, we all can worship the Lord. But when it comes to ministering to people, it comes to a gifting. Some people have a gifting and when they operate that gifting, it is so beautiful. See in the secular world they call it a flow.

It is similar in the spiritual world. There is a divine flow that you learn to yield to. And when God wants to do anything, you have to enter the flow of what He is doing. And you learn to discern what God is doing and you flow with it. The secret is in yielding. In the natural world if you learn something, you yield to your gift. When an artist wants to paint a picture, he must flow with the talent and gifting in his or her life. So the secret is learning how to tap on the gift.

How do we maintain the gift of righteousness permanently? It is important to understand that flow. It is all in the key word *yielding*. How do we yield? The yielding is more from your soul side. Let us look at Romans. There are just two points I want to give on this subject of yielding. The first word is the word that I call it *reckoning*. Rom. 6:4 *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His*

death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should be no longer be slaves of sin.

Now how do we bring that out? Paul comes to verse 11 *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Now reckoning involves a mental process. It involves our mind. The first is to understand the truth of nothingness. Unless you know that you can do nothing without Him, you know you can do some things with Him. Understand and accept that it is not us but His. We have to accept it mentally; reckon it mentally. There are several sub-points to this key. The first key is the key of reckoning. Part A is that reckoning involves that whatever sin or habit or weakness has moved you into sin and ruined your life had been dealt with, - somewhere deep inside you may not feel like it but you must believe it. Abraham didn't feel any children. He didn't even see any children. He didn't even hear the sound of children. He looked at his own poor withered body and found that there is no way he could have a child. He looked at his wife past her reproductive years and knew that there is no way she could have a child. You know what they have to do. Accept what God said. They must believe what God said. You must believe that you are no longer the old person that you were. Many time people try to make it stick to you, "O you are always like this." And when you accept what they say about you, you are finished. Part of the reckoning involves believing that the old part of you is dead. That's the A part.

The B part in verse 11 *but alive to God in Christ Jesus.* What you are sensing on your inside bubbling in you is no more you but that Christ in you. You are still conscious of being alive.

The second key is found in Romans 8:1 *There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.* Then verse 5 *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is live and peace.* Here it says to be spiritually minded. The word *spiritually minded* has a special expression of its own

as we look at in this series. But for now as we introduce the subject the word *spiritually minded* talk about also a consciousness of God on your inside.

Let us look at the consciousness when you accepted Christ. Chapter 7:22 *For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.* So there is a delight on your inside. So the first part is the reckoning. You have to believe it. Your mind must be brought into the position to accept and believe. It is no longer you that live but Christ who lives in you. That somehow the old nature has been dealt with in a powerful way.

The second part is to feel for Him and sense Him on your inside. It is just like this light. This light produces heat to a certain extend. In the natural world when you stand under this kind of spotlight, there is actually a higher temperature. Then under this fluorescent light, you don't have much heat coming to you. You have a lot of light but not much heat. Normally when you walk up and down, you are not conscious of it. But if I were to tell you, "I want you to sense the difference of the heat under the fluorescent light and under the spotlight," then you would be able to feel it. Before that you cannot but when I tell you its there you believe its there because it is the truth and when you seek to sense it, you are able to find it. It is just like it takes one person to discover that oxygen is the main combustibile element that causes things to burn. Straight away all over the world, scientists conduct the experiment to prove or disprove it. However, that oxygen was there all the time but we didn't realize it until somebody discovered it.

Now in the spiritual, it's the same way. When Christ comes to you, He lives in your spirit man even though you may not feel different. I guarantee you if you sense His presence in you and you yield to His presence, you will find Him thinking and speaking and doing things through you.

The second key is what I call the consciousness. First is reckoning, second is consciousness. Because if you don't reckon you won't even pay attention to the consciousness. We have to believe first. And as we are conscious of God and you practice the consciousness of God, that seed of righteousness grows more and more on your inside. Then it can become stronger. And it becomes stronger because you

are feeding it with the Word of God. You could sense the anointing of God. And as you learn to sense the anointing of God in your prayer life, in your worship time, after sometime when you are out there, you will naturally flow in the anointing of God wherever you are. In the supermarket, of course, your mind is still busy looking for the items you want or the best prices but you are not thinking about the anointing of God. But if you want to you could be conscious of God. When we become conscious of that seed sometimes that seed can actually be speaking to you and saying, "I like to be in this part of your life now." You could see it bubbling on your inside. He says, "I want to do this part. Will you let me do that part?"

And Paul learned to yield to that. It says here in the book of Acts 18:5 *When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.* He was constrained by the Spirit. In some translations, it says *he was stirred*. Jeremiah the prophet says that the Word of God was burning in him and he cannot but speak forth. But its based on these two key verses that you are familiar with. On one side Paul said by the grace of God I am what I am yet not I but the grace of God in me do what it is. He is conscious of himself and he is conscious that it is God. On the other had he says, *It is no long I who live but Christ who lives in me. And the life that I now live..*" Now he knows that he is still alive. He says, *"..it is the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."* If you sense Christ is in you and you sense that Christ wants to flow out in everything that you do, it is very difficult to do the wrong thing. It is just like when you are in God, falling sick is a difficult thing to do. I mean before you know this, you think that every year you need your annual flu. And you will have your annual bout of sickness and disease. But in God, we don't expect these things any more. We don't expect to be sick. We expect to be in good health. It's the opposite.

In the same way if you understand this truth, it will be the opposite of the usual worldly expectation of falling into sin every now and then. It becomes very hard to fall into sin. The consciousness that Christ and the gift of righteousness are in you would push you away from sin. It's the key of consciousness. The other is reckoning. These two combine powerfully. We have seen how the seed of righteousness can grow on our inside. We have studied the fact that righteousness is a seed. It needs to be nourished, cherished and taken care of. And that seed will take care of you. It becomes a tree and it becomes your life. It becomes your

personality. In that way, God's character and God's seed become your character and personality.