

“The Righteousness Of God” Part 9

Pastor Grant Williams August 24, 2016

There are promises in Gods Word when we do what is right...**the promises or benefits of integrity.**

Proverbs 20:7 KJV

*7 The just man walketh in his integrity: **his children are blessed after him.***

Proverbs 14:32 GNT

*32 Wicked people bring about their own downfall by their evil deeds, **but good people are protected by their integrity.***

Proverbs 2:7 AMP

He is a shield to those who walk uprightly and in integrity,

Last week we talked about Daniel and how his integrity and character from his obedience to God pushed him forward. It changed a **national law** and had a king make a nation worship the only one true God. But, he first had to prove that he was faithful to God in the little things and then he could be trusted with the big things.

Regardless of your education, who you know (other than God), your background, pedigree - God can do the impossible if you are obedient in all areas of your life.

Daniel 6:1-5 GNT

1 Darius decided to appoint a hundred and twenty governors to hold office throughout his empire.

2 In addition, he chose Daniel and two others to supervise the governors and to look after the king's interests.

3 Daniel soon showed that he could do better work than the other supervisors or the governors. Because he was so outstanding, (King James says excellent spirit or his character and integrity could not be questioned) the king considered putting him in charge of the whole empire.

4 Then the other supervisors and the governors tried to find something wrong with the way Daniel administered the empire, but they couldn't, because Daniel was reliable and did not do anything wrong or dishonest.

5 They said to each other, "We are not going to find anything of which to accuse Daniel unless it is something in connection with his religion."

Daniel 6:25-28 AMP

25 Then King Darius wrote to all peoples, nations, and languages [in his realm] that dwelt in all the earth: May peace be multiplied to you!

26 I make a decree that in all my royal dominion men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for He is the living God, enduring and steadfast forever, and His kingdom shall not be destroyed and His dominion shall be even to the end [of the world].

27 He is a Savior and Deliverer, and He works signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth—He Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

28 So this [man] Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel didn't walk with the ungodly, he was a righteous man. A man of integrity and character. The bible said that he had an excellent spirit – so much so that the only thing they could find fault or attack him for was his love of God.

Daniel didn't have companions (close friends) who were ungodly and that's what helped him stand out in the time of trouble!

1 Corinthians 15:33 AMP

33 Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character.

1 Corinthians 15:33 GNT

33 Do not be fooled. "Bad companions ruin good character."

Why?

Proverbs 25:19 KJV

19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

Proverbs 25:19 GNT

19 Depending on an unreliable person (bad character, one who lacks integrity) in a crisis is like trying to chew with a loose tooth or walk with a crippled foot.

There are many unfaithful, unreliable people who look good on the outside, sound good, who go to church...but they are not good for you. But, there are godly people as well...they may look a little different then your old dark knowledge self would of associated with in the past. They may dress different the you, drive a different car and even have a different background...but, they are a new creature in Christ just like you and they are new from the inside out.

Remember, you can't depend on someone who has a bad character and has a lack of integrity. They can't depend on you if you have a lack of integrity and bad character as well.

We are representing the Kingdom of God and by the knowledge of Gods Word we are becoming more righteous. We are fleeing from something, (evil) and pursuing what is right.

2 Peter 1:1-4 KJV

1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Through the knowledge of Gods Word, He tells us what to do and what not to do...He has given us everything that pertains unto life and godliness.

Proverbs 13:20 KJV

*20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: **but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.***

Proverbs 13:20 GNT

*20 Keep company with the wise and you will become wise. If you make **friends with stupid people, you will be ruined.***

Associations that you have when going into the world where God has placed you are crucial. Sometimes what people do is start associating with the wrong group of people. They have close relationships with them and as a result the ungodly start changing them. **Remember we are to be a thermostat and not a thermometer – you need to be changing them and not them changing you.**

Every day, every day, I tell myself – I'm not changing and no one is going to change me. You as well need to make up your mind every day - I'm not changing and no one is changing me.

I will not be moved, just like a tree that's planted by the water, I will not be moved. A tree needs water to keep growing and if it's moved away from the water it will dry up and die. You need to keep building your faith, keep drinking, taking in and devouring the Word. Don't allow people or situations to move you from your faith and cast a shadow on your character.

The law of association says: if you associate too closely with a long relationship with small minded people what are you going to be thinking like? Small minded. What's another word for small minded? – **Stupid** . Remember *Proverbs 13:20* said 'you listen to them and you'll be ruined.'

When this happens it's not just subtle, but it's very powerful. All you have to do is ask Samson, he hung out with a bad woman named Delilah. Next thing you know, the anointing had left his life and he didn't even know it. That's what I'm telling you – it is subtle. If you want to be wise the scripture says hang out with wise people.

When you go into a place who promotes you? God. The bible says the promotion for the believer doesn't come from the east or the west. You don't have to align yourself with ungodly people to get promoted. Now, God will use people to do it but it doesn't come from them – why?

Because the enemy is scheming against you. He doesn't want you to go any higher and that's why he will tempt you along the way – attack your integrity and character.

God is the one who is getting you promoted for His purposes and that's where most people miss it. They think they are getting it on their own ability. Think about this, if God wasn't with you, you might not even draw a breath tomorrow morning.

Psalm 14:1 GNT

Fools say to themselves, "There is no God!"

God is the one who is pouring out His grace and mercy upon us and causing us to prosper.

Let's read about David and who was drawn to a person who was righteous - a man after Gods own heart...this is who wanted to associate with Him - to be lifted up.

1 Samuel 22:1-2 KJV

1 David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.

2 And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

Now they associated with David, but, David did not come down to their level. He brought them up to his level. All you have to do is go over into the book of Chronicles and see that they turned into mighty men. Just one of those mighty men could slay 800 men.

Not only could he slay 800 men, but the bible says in 1 chronicles 29 that David gave 100 billion dollars for the building of the temple. He told his son to build the temple and here's an offering of 100 billion in gold and that's not including the silver. That's not including what his men gave.

See the anointing that was on David came over them. That's what happens when we hang out with God's anointed. Who are you hanging out with?

The anointing is: the burden lifting yoke breaking power of God to do things that in the natural are impossible.

I'm talking about an anointing for big things. Jesus said what I did you're going to do and even greater things will you do - if you walk by or are guided by the holy spirit. He said I've come that you might have life more abundantly.

John 10:10 AMP

*10 The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and **have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).***

Deuteronomy 28:2 AMP

*2 And all **these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you heed the voice of the Lord your God.***

My job is to get you out of the place of small thinking, doing small things, making a small impact and increase your faith and push you to the place where you are having big thoughts and doing big things for the kingdom of God.

Isaiah 55:8-9 AMP

8 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 2:9 AMP

9 ...as the Scripture says, What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed].

The bible tells me it's my choice – I choose to walk in faith, I choose to be obedient to the ways of God. I want to take you as far as you can go and to do that I need to go as far as I can go.

So, you and I need to set in our minds right now that we need to have good associations. If there's anybody robbing the life blood out of you, and you know what I'm talking about - you need to take a step out of the boat, kick them to the curb, you need to tell them there's some place I got to go. I have to be about my Father's Business!

We all have had or have some friends who bring us down. They want to hang out, go out to eat and talk about everything other than what God is doing. **You need to cut them off and do it in love, do it gently but cut it off.** You tell them that God said you've got some where to go and your pastor just reminded you.

You need to say to your spirit man – “I don't want more of the world I want more of the Word.”

Now, they might have some things to say about me and some things to say about God but that's because the enemy is against the things of God and he doesn't want you set free – he doesn't want you free from this world's way of doing things. **Strife and toil.**

We need to walk in the fullness of the stature of Christ. Whatever you've read and heard Jesus do, it's going to be done by the church.

- o Jesus spoke to a storm and calmed it
- o Jesus spoke to life into a dead man after 4 days
- o Jesus spoke to a tree and it died
- o Jesus walked on water
- o Jesus was obedient to the Father

Jesus said you and I are going to do the same thing...

John 14:12 AMP

12 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.

The world is looking for some signs and wonders. That needs to start with us, they want to see a transformed life. We have been trying to just tell them about Jesus but the gospel in the bible didn't come without demonstration, people need to see God, they need to hear God, the need deliverance from sin that can only come from God and we are the ones to show them.

We are to be His hands extended and the Word needs to become flesh in us. We are called to be Holy as He is Holy.

1 Peter 1:16 AMP

16 For it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.

Where is it written ?

Leviticus 11:44 AMP

44 For I am the Lord your God; so consecrate yourselves and be holy, for I am holy;

Scripture confirming scripture...

We need to walk in integrity – we need to get this developed in us so we can be a witness. **“Well pastor Grant, I mess up, I’m not perfect and it’s hard for me to be a good example...”**

God is so merciful and gracious if we flunk the 2nd grade of integrity He will let us go back through it. He wants to refine us. Remember He is setting us up to prevail and not fail.

1 John 1:9 AMP

9 If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action].

Revelation 1:5-6 KJV

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

*6 And **hath made us kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

We have been studying righteousness and inside of that contains our integrity and character. Gods Word says that we, as children of God, have been brought into the kingdom of God through our acceptance of Jesus Christ as our lord and personal savior.

We have come into the kingdom of God which is a super natural reality. It is something that is above the level of the natural intellect. In Mark 4:11 Jesus calls it a mystery. **Mystery defined is: something that is beyond human comprehension.**

Mark 4:11 AMP

11 And He said to them, To you has been entrusted the mystery of the kingdom of God [that is, the secret counsels of God which are hidden from the ungodly]; but for those outside [of our circle] everything becomes a parable

When we come to church what we need to do is study the Word. We need to be learning or being disciplined on what it means to be a Christian, what it means to be a citizen of that kingdom and how we are to act and perform as ambassadors.

An ambassador defined is: someone who comes from another government to a foreign government to take care of diplomatic business on behalf of that home government.

The bible says in John 3 that we have been ‘born from above’ so now we are in the government of the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is not a religion, it is a government. (People have made a religion out of it). The bible says that the government shall be upon His shoulders.

Isaiah 9:6,7 KJV

*6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: **and the government shall be upon his shoulder:** and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end....

So this particular government is going to engulf this whole earth.

Now we have had governments in the past like:

- o Babylon and that’s when Daniel gave an interpretation to Nebuchadnezzor’s dream.
- o Then the government of the neo Persian kingdom under Darius with Daniel as well. We talked about that last week.
- o Then the Greek kingdom under Alexander who set out to change the world.
- o Then the Romans under Caesar.

We have seen all these governments and we have democracy. where we get to vote. The kingdom of God, there is no voting - He rules. At the end of time all of these governments are going to fade away. We will have one government and that will be the government of the Kingdom of God.

Now, this is why being men and women of integrity and character is so important. That government, the kingdom of God, is what we are representing. We are giving people a glimpse of that kingdom or the government of heaven. We are here to advance that kingdom by being trained and not entertained to be sent out into a society with our assignment.

The church, which is you and I, are here to expand the kingdom because we (the church) were created for the world. We can't separate ourselves from the world meaning we as the church need to go out in the world, but not what? **Of the world.**

The Church (born again imitators of Jesus Christ) is suppose to be taught new values. Because, you and I once we got born again, our spirit is reborn but our minds are still not renewed and the flesh in not trained. So what happens when you come to church is you are coming to **learn how you are to carry the values, culture, principles and the morals of a new kingdom to the world.**

We are to go out and expand our influence and change the world; we are to be world changers! We are to be Northville changers, we are to be Plymouth changers, and we are to be Novi changers.

We are to be Livonia changers...We are to be school changers. We are to be work changers. When we do that, doing what is right or righteous, we are fulfilling the plan from the beginning or time.

Genesis 1:28 KJV

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

The word replenish means to: stock with abundance, it means: to finish or complete, it means : **to recover former fullness.** In order to do that, enter into God's fullness, we need to:

- o Get off the milk and on the meat
- o We need to have the super added to our natural (holy spirit)
- o We need *the righteous to be bold as a lion.* **Prov 28:1 KJV**
- o We need to start *calling those things which be not as though they were* **Rom 4:17 KJV**
- o We need to understand that those who are from His Kingdom *shall also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.* **Job 22:28 KJV**

As believers, when we go out, we are to transform society. When society is not being transformed it's either because the wrong model has been in the church (meaning kings and priest) or people don't know that they are kings and priests.

I'm talking about the corporate model of priests and kings and this model is designed to go out and transform society. Now, if society is not being transformed it's because we aren't preaching the gospel of the kingdom or we as citizens aren't living the gospel of the kingdom.

Romans 1:16-17 KJV

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

This is what happens when you're not ashamed...

Matthew 5:16 KJV

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

When we are righteous and our light shines before men/women that's when God is revealed through us. Do not be ashamed, do not be afraid to do what is right; to do what God has called you do to. When you do what He says, He will take care of you, He Promises us in His word.

Matthew 6:33 KJV

*33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and **all these things** shall be added unto you.*

Matthew 6:33 AMP

*33 But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then **all these things** taken together will be given you besides.*

So, how do I make these changes ? how do I pursue righteousness? How do I seek the kingdom first?

Actions steps: change who are your close associations. The Word says get rid of the ungodly and unreliable and have godly, reliable, honest close associations (just like Daniel). Ones with character and integrity that the bible says is needed in order for us to continue to grow.

Don't settle because you are lonely for a period of time in your life. The last thing my father instructed me to do before He went to get his final reward with Jesus was... "I would rather you be holy and lonely then ungodly with many friends."

Going to church doesn't make you righteous, being obedient to all of Gods commands does. **Don't get confused by attendance to God House versus being attentive or obedient to Gods Word.**

Many people thinking one way contrary to Gods Word doesn't make it right.

Proverbs 14:12 KJV

12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Putting Gods Word first is the most important denominator or number one thing of importance in a close relationship. Those close associations are not limited to friendships but your future husband or wife as well. That “close association” person in your life needs to have God first in their life as well and that is: measurable testable and observable.

Someones conduct, their character and integrity, their words and deeds should be our priority in evaluating is this relationship glorifying God. Don't deceive yourself....you will be hurt by those who say one thing but bear no fruit - singing is not a fruit, being funny is not a fruit, being attractive is not a fruit, talent is not a fruit, money is not a fruit, sarcasm is not a fruit...

Galatians 5:22-23 AMP

*22 But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness,
23 Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].*

So, how can we be righteous? How do we stay away from evil (bringing death) and do what is godly (bringing life) ? I will finish this series with the passage that we started it with...

2 Peter 1:1-4 King James Version (KJV)

1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

