

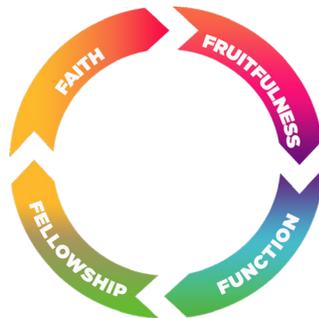
A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - PART 3

Last week we looked at what it is to live out this divine life of righteousness. It is essential that we don't chase this outcome, but that we enter into God's divine process of transformation on the inside, which produces this life of righteousness in and through us.

The outer life is just an expression of the divine inner life.

Below is what this divine process of inner transformation is and looks like and we will unpack each aspect.



Fellowship ——— Faith ——— Fruitfulness ——— Function (Righteous Acts)

The first aspect of this divine order of living out this life of righteousness, is being in “Fellowship” with God and living from this position of spiritual oneness with God. We are to enter into this spiritual oneness with God through the power of revelation in us, through the Holy Spirit, and then be perfected in this oneness.

John 17:23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

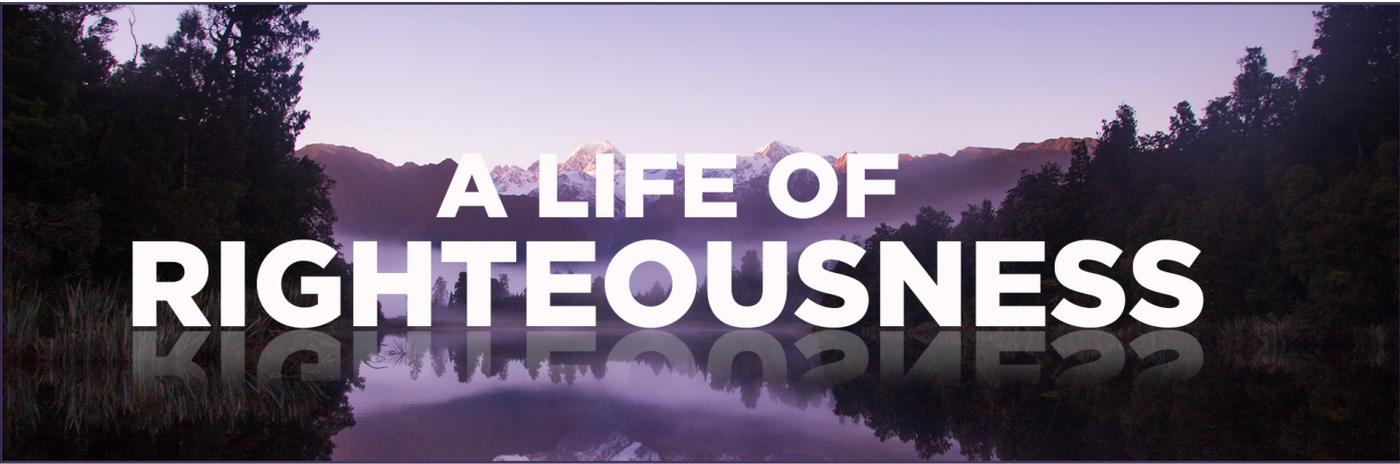
Being perfected in unity is a work of the Holy Spirit alone. It is not something we can do but something we yield or surrender our lives to Christ to be accomplished in us. It is all a divine work of the Spirit, through us giving the Spirit our consent.

The first righteous act or work of God which comes from our fellowship with God is to believe.

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

Now it's extremely easy to just breeze past this statement of truth and say, “Yes, I believe”, but the question we must ask is, “What does it mean to believe and what are we believing in?”

Does it mean to believe is to mentally or intellectually agree with who Jesus said He was and the words He spoke, or is to believe much deeper than that? Is to believe to receive a living conviction of the heart, where the heart receives the reality of who Jesus is and the words He speaks, to which our lives naturally align themselves, through an active demonstration of what we believe in?



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A living conviction will always demonstrate itself in an action, while a mental agreement will be just that. I say yes, I believe but my actions won't reflect or resemble my belief. This is critical when it comes to a life of righteousness lived out. One can not live out this life of righteousness unless one has and is constantly receiving this living conviction called "believe".

I love this phrase "Believe in Him". It's not believe in the miracles, the signs and the wonders first. The Jews ask Him to do these things so they can believe, but this isn't the requirement firstly. The first requirement is that we believe in Him, in other words in who He is. This is what John 6 is all about. It's not primarily about the feeding of the 5000, the miracle, but it's a Messiah issue.

The first work of God which births fellowship, is to believe, to be fully convinced in one's heart that Jesus is the Messiah - Lord. Now once again, it's easy to say Jesus is the Messiah and agree with this truth intellectually, which isn't wrong, but what does a person's life look like that truly lives under the reality and authority of Jesus being their Lord, as this is what the word Messiah means.

We must also believe in the words the Messiah speaks, words that are Spirit and Life. It's one thing to believe He is the Messiah, and it's another thing to believe the words of the Messiah. They are ultimately a position of one, but a position of one we must enter in to.

This was Peter's problem. Peter had a divine revelation that Jesus was the Messiah, and then found himself in direct opposition to what the Messiah spoke, due to unbelief - Matthew 16:17, 21-23.

Not one single person starts their physical life in fellowship with God. We all start our lives outside of fellowship or spiritual oneness with God, in sin and iniquity. We all start in function, where we look to receive our identity, our sense of meaning and purpose, acceptance, accomplishment and value, to who we are as a person. We look for the form and the formula for life, as opposed to being in fellowship with Christ and allowing all these things to come from this position.

If we stay in this position, we will never experience the life we can know in Christ or being able to live out this life of righteousness in Christ.

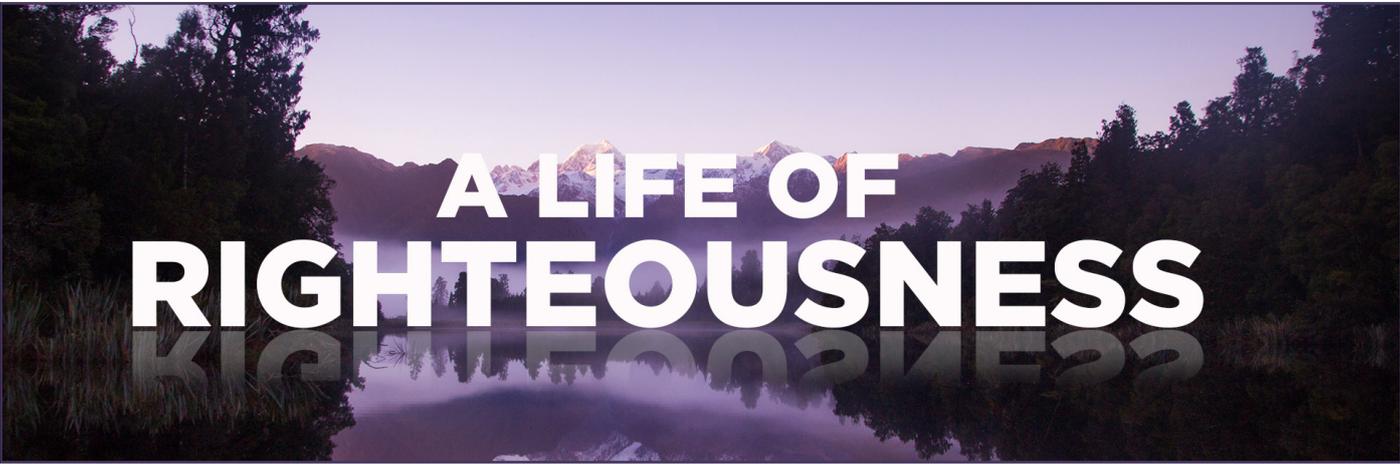
As we believe and continue to believe in what God says, receiving the life giving Word of God and fellowship or spiritual oneness with God, the Son and the Spirit begins to grow within us. The more it grows the more we live from Christ being formed in us, and this empowers and enables us to live out this life of righteousness. This life of righteousness is just an expression of our divine fellowship or oneness with God.

We have entered into the reality and actuality of 1 Corinthians 1:9.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the same fellowship that John speaks of and invites us into in 1 John 1:3

1 John 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.



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This truly is a divine invitation and one that every follower of Jesus has been invited into. The question then remains. Have we entered into this kind of fellowship with the Father and Son?

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it essential that every follower realises the first work of God is to believe and not to do anything functional?
2. How does this "belief" define our fellowship in and with God?
3. How does this understanding of fellowship differ from what you have been taught or what you have thought in the past or currently think?
4. What does this kind of fellowship with God empower and enable in our lives?
5. Where would you say you are truly at in this kind of fellowship with God?

ACTION POINT: What action point do we need to take away from tonight and apply to our lives?