

A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - PART 10

We have looked at and unpacked the first 2 righteous works of the saints, which require the Holy Spirit's presence and power, and this third work is no different. Jesus said, "Apart from Me you can do nothing". We can not believe and we can not love, and neither can we accomplish these physical manifestations of works the way He intends, without the Spirit's power and leading.

For these works we want to look at the making of disciples, the testifying of Him, healing the sick, casting out demons, giving, serving, prophesying, looking after the poor and the widows.

Hebrews 11:33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

1 John 3:11-12 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

What becomes very obvious and very clear is that all the works we accomplish are to be works of faith. They are works that are centred, inspired, empowered and led by the Spirit, because remember the words of Christ Himself, "Apart from Me you can do nothing". This is what works of faith are.

These works are completely opposite to works of the flesh. Works of the flesh come out of us because we are highly functional people of the flesh, as opposed to works of the Spirit coming out of us by faith, because we are a people in fellowship with Christ.

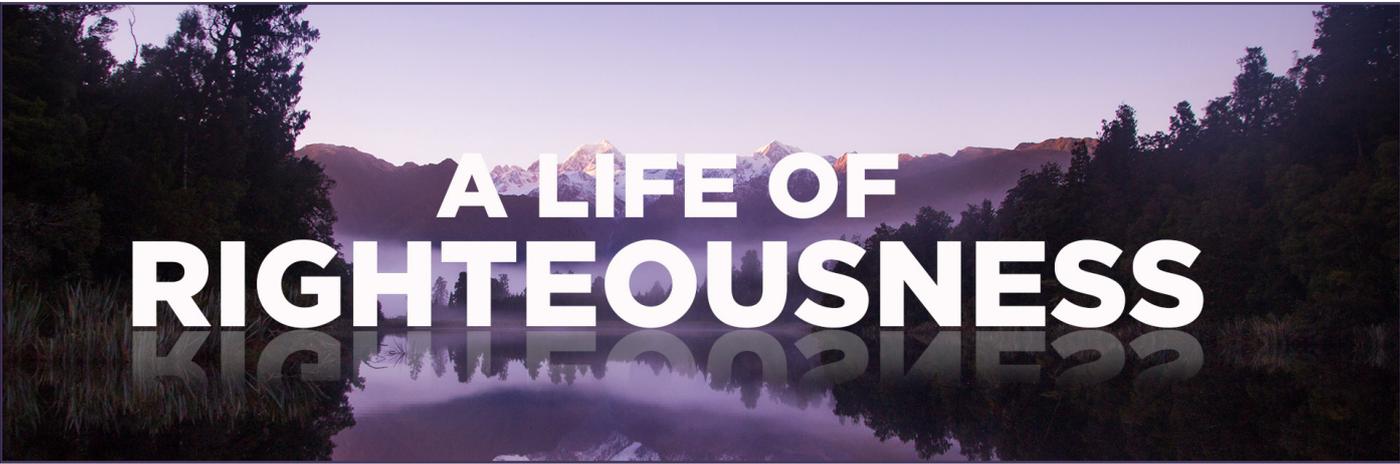
Busyness for Christ doesn't constitute righteous works by faith, they are just works.

It's not just about doing any works but it's about doing righteous works. This is why the righteous live by faith. We believe by faith, we love by faith and we demonstrate by faith.

James 2:18 But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

The question we must all ask ourselves is how much of our lives are being given to the making of disciples, while at the same time being disciplined. How regularly are we giving testimony to the life changing work of Jesus in our lives. Are we giving financially to the work of God, serving, laying hands on the sick and praying for healing? Are we taking care of the orphans and the widows etc etc.?

Jesus was very clear when He said in ***John 14:12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father."***



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Jesus is expecting His disciples, His church, to walk in His footsteps in every area of kingdom life. It's not enough to say, "Oh, that's not my thing or my gifting or my personality". Disciples are to be made into the image of the Son, and as this is happening, we are to live as the Son lived.

1 John 4:17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

The Scriptures are very clear that God expects His church to release His manifold wisdom, which is the demonstration (righteous acts) of Himself into this earth.

In our next resource we will unpack the absolute importance of all these works being accomplished by the pattern that God has given us, so we don't find ourselves hearing, "Away from Me, for I do not know you", but we hear, "Well done My good and faithful servant".

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it so essential we all know God is expecting His disciples to enter into the accomplishing of righteous works?
2. What is the ultimate consequence for those who do works from the flesh rather than works of faith?
3. Why do you think the making of disciples has become an option for many in God's body, when it is a direct instruction from God Himself?
4. How confident are you when led by the Spirit to pray for the sick, prophesy, or cast out demons in Jesus name? Why is this the case?
5. What role does trusting in God play, when we lack the faith we need to be living this wisdom out?

ACTION POINT: What is God bringing in to the Light about us from this prophetic utterance and what do we sense He is saying our response is to be towards this?