

A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - PART 11

In the last resource which completes the life of righteousness, we will look at the pattern in which these works are lived out. A work of faith is a work outside of our human ability to achieve. Zeal can look like fervent faith, but it's not. A work of faith is a work that has been prepared beforehand for us to walk in. The difference between a righteous work and an unrighteous work, are the origins in which the works come from and are accomplished by.

The life of righteousness is a very narrow way, which we enter into through the narrow gate.

Matthew 7: 21-23 “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’*

The key to entering the kingdom of heaven, which in this particular context isn't the place heaven but the literal reign of Christ back on earth, is the accomplishment of God's will, and not just using His name to prophesy, cast out demons and perform miracles in His name. Using His name to do our will is blasphemy and completely opposite to His way.

This tells me it's fully possible to do these things, but still not enter into this age to come, because although one does these things, one doesn't do the will of God and still practices lawlessness.

The scriptures teach that lawlessness is sin.

1 John 3:4 *Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.*

The scriptures also teach us that whatever is not from faith is a sin.

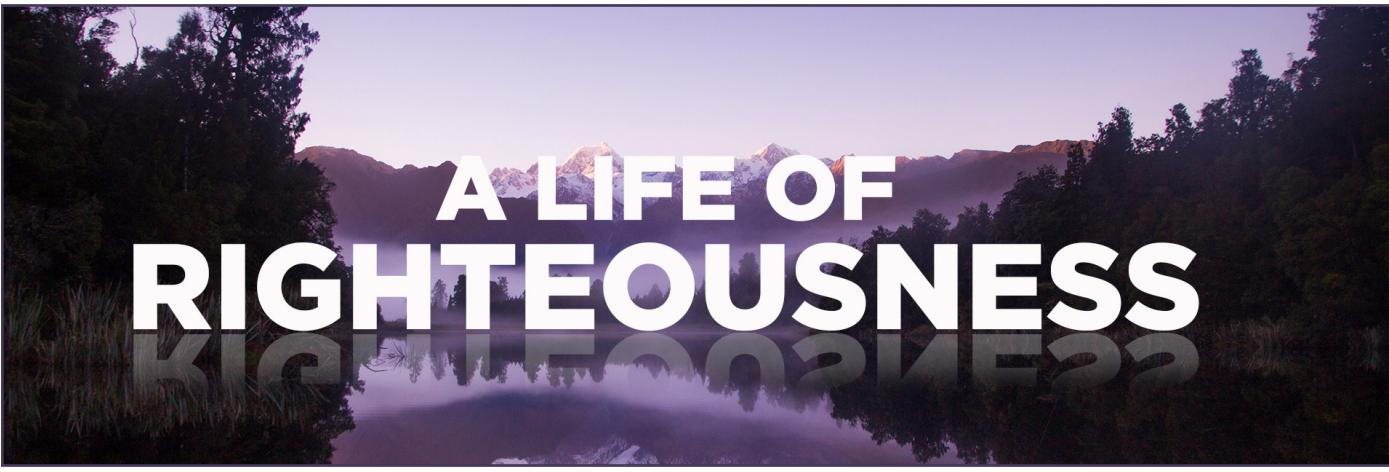
Romans 14:23 *But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.*

We are called and chosen to live a life of faith in Christ, not sin, and to miss the mark to which we are called - faith, is a sin. For there to be true spiritual fellowship, faith, fruitfulness, producing righteous acts to come forth, we must be in the process of spiritual sanctification.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.*

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 *But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and*



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body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is where everything is won or lost and whether the house will stand when it comes under trials, tribulation and testing. The house or the person in the process of sanctification is able to stand firm and overcome the testing, while the one who isn't, falls and the fall is great.

Matthew 7:24-28 “*Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”*

The words that Jesus is referring to here in verse 24 are the words from the previous verses in Matthew 7:21-23. I pray we will all take these words to heart, which say unless we accomplish the will of God, then we will not find ourselves entering the kingdom of heaven.

QUESTIONS

1. How do you think it will feel to be one of these people who hear “I never knew you, depart from Me?”
2. How is it possible to prophesy, cast out demons, heal the sick all in His name, and Him still not know you?
3. Why is living a life of faith so essential for every follower and what are the consequences if we don’t?
4. Spiritual sanctification is the key. What is spiritual sanctification?
5. What do you believe you have learnt the most from this resource and how is this learning impacting you?