Understanding His Righteousness

Chapter 1 Part 1

1.1 Introduction

As a reminder, as you read these words that have been given to me by the Holy Spirit, through the anointing of God our Father, I do not want you, the reader, to believe this because I have said so, or because of my experiences, or because I might have made a good argument, but I want you to only believe these words as the Holy Spirit is witnessing to your heart that these are the words of our Lord. I want you to believe these words because as you read them, life is entering into your soul, and your soul is my witness as to the origin of these words, that is the Holy Spirit. I want you to only believe these words because the Spirit of truth is leading you into the truth of these words, and that He is able to reveal to you the true secrets of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. I want you to believe these words through your faith in God that He will reveal to you all things that are His and only to His children.

The point being that unless you use your faith, and depend on God to reveal to you the truth, then stop here. You will not learn anything unless the Holy Spirit opens your ears, eyes, heart and mind to understand, perceive and receive the truth and secrets of God and His **Kingdom**.

If you are not receiving revelations or life from these words, then you need to stop. It is worthless to continue, for without the Lord opening your mind, heart, eyes, and ears, it is impossible for you to understand what God is saying. YOU need to stop and go back to Volume 2 and understand how to open you eyes, ears, mind and heart.

This volume starts the next step into having the closest relationship with God and our Lord Jesus the Christ. This writing is about how to be righteous and the relationship righteousness brings. This is the final step necessary to being one with God, allowing you to be and live in the Holy of Holies, where God lives.

Yes God lives in us, but He also wants us to live with Him, for He lives in a place He calls "The Holy of the Holies". Remember that there are four steps to we must take to enter into the Holy of Holies:

- 1. Salvation, to enter into the outer court yard of the Kingdom of God
- 2. Baptism in the Holy Spirit, to enter into the inner court of the Kingdom of God
- 3. Be willing to be willing to obey God, to enter it the temple of God
- 4. Being righteous through obedience, to enter into the Holy of the Holies.

The first two in the list, comes from knowing and understanding the Kingdom of God, where as the last 2 in this list occur when you learn and know, and then understand the righteousness of God. For only the righteous can enter into the Holy of the Holies.

You can only enter into the Holy of the Holies when you are ready to become one with God and live with God in His place: The Holy of the Holies.

You will learn more when you read the chapter on the Holy of the Holies. So in order to reach this, you must study about being righteous and His righteousness.

1.2 **Righteousness**?

Why righteousness? What is righteousness? How do we become righteous? How do we know we are righteous?

RO 1:14 "I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. [15] That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome."

RO 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. [17] For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

RO 1:18 "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, [19] since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. [20] For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

GAL 3:6 "Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to Him as righteousness." [7] Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. [8] The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." [9] So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

GAL 3:10 "All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." [11] Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." [12] The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them."* [13] Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." [14] He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

RO 3:21 "But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. [22] **This righteousness**

from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. [25] God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- [26] He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

RO 9:30 "What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, **a righteousness that is by faith**; [31] but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. [32] Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone." [33] As it is written:

"See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame."

RO 10:1 "Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. [2] For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. [3] Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. [4] Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes."

RO 10:5 "Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "**The man who does these things will live by them**." [6] But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, `Who will ascend into heaven?! " (that is, to bring Christ down) [7] "or `Who will descend into the deep?! " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). [8] But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: [9] That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. [11] As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame." [12] For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, [13] for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

RO 14:13 "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. [14] As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. [15] If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. [16] Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. [17] For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, [18] because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.

Finally:

PHP 3:2 "Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. [3] For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh-- [4] though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: [5] circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; [6] as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless."

PHP 3:7 "But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. [8] What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. [10] I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, [11] and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

In short we are righteous because of the blood of Jesus, because through Him we, through our faith in His sacrifice, are made righteous. It takes both parties for us to become righteous: Jesus sacrifice, His serious and painful death, and resurrection, and our faith in Him. Since He finished His part, and now it is up to us to do, to act and to persevere until we join Him.

He says that it is there is a second part to our key of life.

MT 6:28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. [29] Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. [30] If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? [31] So do not worry, saying, `What shall we eat?' or `What shall we drink?' or `What shall we wear?' [32] For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. [33] **But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well. [34] Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

The secret to life is in this verse, "<u>But seek first His Kingdom and His</u> <u>righteousness</u>," and as you see it is in two parts,

- 1. Seek first His Kingdom
- 2. Then seek His righteousness

Note: As a reminder as to what it is to seek; lets see its meaning.

SEEK:

- 1. To go in search or quest of: to seek the truth.
- 2. To try to find or discover by searching or questioning: to seek the solution to a problem.
- 3. To try to obtain: to seek fame.
- 4. To try or attempt (usually fol. by an infinitive): to seek to convince a person.
- 5. To go to: to seek a place to rest.
- 6. To ask for; request: to seek advice.
- 7. Archaic. to search or explore
- 8. To make inquiry,
- 9. Be sought after, to be desired or in demand: *Graduates in the physical sciences are most sought after by employers these days.*

American Heritage Dictionary

seek (sēk)

v. sought (sôt), seek-ing, seeks

- 1. To try to locate or discover; search for.
- 2. To endeavor to obtain or reach: *seek a college education*.
- 3. To go to or toward: *Water seeks its own level*.
- 4. To inquire for; request: *seek directions from a police officer*.
- 5. To try; endeavor: *seek to do good*.
- 6. To explore. (*Obsolete—not used anymore*)

In short seek means to locate or discover with all of your mind, body and soul; to keep looking until you find it. You never stop.

God is asking or commanding us to never stop and to keep looking until we find and understand the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Above we talked about our righteousness, now we are talking about His righteousness, and this comes through obedience.

So the key to life comes in two parts, the first part means to find out and to know what, why and understand the way God does things and the way His **<u>Kingdom</u>** does things or the way His **<u>Kingdom</u>** operates.

EPH 4:9 "(What does "he ascended" mean except that He also descended to the lower, earthly regions? [10] He who descended is the very One who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) [11] It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, [12] to prepare <u>God's people for</u>

works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [13] until we all reach unity in the faith and **in the knowledge of the Son of God** and <u>become mature</u>, <u>attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ</u>."

The second part means to find out how you are to act and live in the Kingdom of God and living for God. It means that you are to find out how, when, where you are to apply the understanding you have about the Kingdom of God and how God does things. You cannot act or do anything if you do not know and understand what and why God does things.

We have been discussing the Kingdom of God and His way of doing things in the other books, so you should know by now that everything is up to you and the decisions you make. You have your free will, and God honors your free will. So it is up to you to make your decisions, no one can or should make them for you, they were not made for you when you were born, not by your parents or by your spouse (if you are married). These people can influence your decisions but they cannot make them for you. It might seem that you do not have a choice, but you really do, you just do not like the consequences of some choices.

GE 2:25 "The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

GE 3:1 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

GE 3:2 "The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, [3] but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

GE 3:4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. [5] "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

GE 3:6 "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. [7] Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

GE 3:8 "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

GE 3:10 "He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

GE 3:11 "And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

GE 3:12 "The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

GE 3:13 "Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Here Adam tries to blame his eating the apple on Eve, but he made the decision to follow her. She did not force him. He is accountable for all of his decisions and actions.

JOS 24:14 "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods (make a decision) your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. [15] But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, **then choose for yourselves** this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

1KI 18:36 "At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at Your command. [37] Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that You, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

God has made a big point out of making sure that we understand that we need knowledge in the Lord. Why? Why do we need to know about the Lord?

Well lets look at this another way. If you do not live by informative decisions, then what else do you have? Well the world would have you believe that you can live by your feelings. "If it feels good, do it" is the world's motto. Do you need to know things when all you have to do is to live by your feelings? Do feelings need knowledge to exist and direct you? Are they smart? Are they wise? And are they all knowing?

Freud was right in his thinking that we seem to have two parts of our being that can control us. He called it "The conscious" and "The sub-conscious". Well another way to think of it is the purposeful decision controller, and the compulsive instinct controller; or the wisdom driven man and dumb beast driven man. But the way God sees it is man making a wise, knowledgeable and informative decision vs. the spontaneous, compulsive, and feeling driven decision.

Everything we do requires some kind of decision, even if the decision is to do nothing, it is a decision. We are not like the tree that just sits there and grows. It does not have to make a decision as to where it will grow, it grew where the wind carried the seed, or where the animals planted the seed, and then it has no choice as to how much it grows. So it just sits there growing without a care or decision to make in the world. They are not human, but we are, so everything we do requires a decision.

When we make decisions, we battle against ourselves first. We constantly battle over who will control us—our conscious which is our purposeful, wisdom driven man or the sub-conscious which is our dumb beast, the spontaneous, compulsive, and feeling driven man.

EPH 2:1 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, [2] in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. [3] All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts (*the dumb beast with in.*) Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. [4] But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. [6] And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, [7] in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. [8] For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

JAS 3:13 "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom <u>(the</u> <u>conscious man)</u>. [14] But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth <u>(friends of the beast)</u>. [15] Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. [16] For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice."

JAS 3:17 "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. [18] Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness."

JAS 4:1 "What causes fights and quarrels among you? **Don't they come** from your desires that battle within you? [2] You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight (*the dumb beast loves to fight*). You do not have, because you do not ask God. [3] When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

JAS 4:4 "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? **Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God**. [5] Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit He caused to live in us envies intensely? [6] But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud (like the lion—a dumb beast) but gives grace to the humble."

JAS 4:7 "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. [9] Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. [10] Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."

The worldly sub-conscious is a feeling controlled, spontaneous and dumb beast that does not allow you a freedom of choice. He lets basic instinct, compulsion and feelings to control you, and your conscious you, you are a living soul with a mind to freely choose. When we are not "Born again", the dumb beast can and is often in control, he lets any evil spirit to influence him and so he gives up control to the evil spirits in the world and they way that they think, say and do (just like Adam did with Eve.) When all of his actions are not his own, he becomes a slave to others or other evil spirits—he has no more choice, this man has no control over himself; hence, as to why God calls it "The beast of man".

The reason God wants you to know how He lives and how the Kingdom of God operates, is so that you can make free, knowledgeable, informative, and wisdom driven decisions-through your conscious man. You cannot make a decision if you do not know what you are deciding on. God wants you do decide on His promises and His understanding-the way He made things to work, and not to decide with your beast driven sub-conscious, which is controlled by basic instincts and feelings—spiritual influences. The enemy uses the feelings of your beast to draw you into making un-wise and often evil decisions. If you do not live by your faith in God and by the Spirit of God, but rather by your dumb beast and its evil friends where you let your beast make your decisions or control you, then you will always live and be controlled by its friends—evil spirits.

This is the main reason for why God requires us to be "Born again". As you know, or should know by now, that when Adam sinned, he was cursed. This curse lives in his blood and is passed to all of his offspring. This curse changed our human spirit from a pure, holy and clean one to an evil, dirty and unholy spirit, that loves all other things that are evil, dirty and unholy—thus creating the dumb beast in us. When we are "Born again" this dumb beast is removed and a new spirit—the original human spirit—is given to us. So now we can be like Adam and Eve were before they sinned. Now the dumb beast is not in charge and controlling us; allowing us to make wiser decisions—Godly decisions.

God will not allow any person controlled by his dumb beast or his evil friends to enter into heaven. God cannot and will not live in any man controlled by the dumb beast, and God will not work with any dumb beast. You must remove and take the control over your dumb beast and live by faith and God's Holy Spirit. When you do that, you will start living in righteousness and you will start being one with God. (John 14, 15 and 16). There is another reason why you must be "Born again." For once you are "Born again" then the Holy Spirit can now live in you. Then the Holy Spirit can guide and lead you. Then you are living by the Spirit of God and not the evil spirits. Now Jesus can talk to you, reveal to you the secrets of the Kingdom of God. Now you are living by the Spirit of God and not of the world.

1.2 Our Mind: The Godly Filter

The conscious, purposeful and wisdom driven man, uses knowledge and information to make a decision and so then conscious man is in control of what he does over his thoughts, his words and his actions. One of the main purposes God has given us a mind, which separates us from the animal world, to act like a filter; a filter to remove or prevent any evil influence from ourselves. That once we understand good from bad, then we can make a conscious decision not to be influenced by evil and to be bad but to do good; we are able to filter out external events from controlling us, and to follow God and His ways of doing things. We are to use our mind to protect our sub-conscious from being seduced and pulled into the temptations of the world and to only follow God.

LK 4:1 "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, [2] where for forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them He was hungry.

LK 4:3 "The devil said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

LK 4:4 "Jesus answered, "It is written: `Man does not live on bread alone.'

This is the temptation of self-preservation, pride, and the basic instinct to survive by needing to eat and drink. Driven by the selfish spirit, enhanced by the gluttony spirit. To be righteous is to be obedient and self-sacrifice, with humbleness—to be dependent on God for your food.

LK 4:5 "The devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. [6] And he said to Him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. [7] So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

LK 4:8 "Jesus answered, "It is written: `Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only."

This is the temptation of power, control (the religious spirit) and lust for riches spirits.

LK 4:9 "The devil led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. [10] For it is written:

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" 'He will command His angels concerning You to guard You carefully; they will lift You up in their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.' "

LK 4:12 "Jesus answered, "It says: `Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

This temptation is what leads to the spirit of doubt, and double-mindedness. It is the spirit of low self-esteem and unfaithfulness—which often leads to allowing the spirit of depression to enter.

LK 4:13 "When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left Him until an opportune time."

As you see here, Jesus used His conscious, purposeful, wisdom driven mind to control His actions and words, for He was living by faith and in the Spirit and anointing of God. For if He used His dumb beast to control Himself by His feelings, He would have been failed and in doing so the devil would have won all humanity because of the desires of the evil spirits: The evil spirits of selfishness, gluttony, lust, pride, control, religion, double mindedness and unfaithfulness—to name a few, for it says that He was there for 40 days being tempted. So this indicates there were more temptations then these few. The Word says that Jesus was tempted with all temptations man has so that He can show us that if He can resist them all, then with His help and living by faith and the Holy Spirit, we can too. Of course the other purpose of Him being tempted like this is so that we, the Children of God, know and have assurance that Jesus understands and knows what we are going through, and that with that knowledge, He can be a merciful and justly judge us, for as you know, He will be the final judge of us all.

In order for us to make Godly, wise and obedient decisions or at least we should know how to make these decisions; we have to have enough information, knowledge and understand of how God does things to make these kinds of decisions. We have to know and be able to make these decisions in order to live and act righteously.

We are considered righteous by what we do. But to do this, you have to know how to fight the evil influences in and around of us. Now the question is how do you make your decisions? If you are not sure how to do this and everything that is needed for it, then you need to go back and read the Books on Understanding the Kingdom of God, and understand them before you continue.

1.3 But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness

MT 6:25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? [26] Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? [27] Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" MT 6:28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. [29] Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. [30] If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? [31] So do not worry, saying, `What shall we eat?' or `What shall we drink?' or `What shall we wear?' [32] For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. [33] **But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** [34] Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

This scripture is the most important scripture in the bible. If you learn to fully understand and live by it, then your life with God and your salvation will be ensured. But if not, then you can only expect damnation and the loss of God and the loss of your salvation.

The understanding of this verse up to now we has been mostly about the Kingdom of God. Lets review so that we are on the same understanding.

1.3.1 Kingdom of God

The idea of the Kingdom of God is to understand God and the way He lives, and the way all of those who live in His Kingdom are to act. It is how God does things. It is to understand how we are supposed to live in the Kings world, whether it is in heaven or on earth.

In order to be righteous, we need to know what we are supposed to do, how we are to act and how to stay clean, pure and holy, for if you are not, you cannot live with God or live in His Kingdom. That is why the first books are of teaching how the Kingdom of God functions and how we are to function in them.

But just knowing and understanding how to act and the reality of acting righteous are not the same. You must put the knowledge and understanding into practice or all of our knowledge will be futile.

EPH 2:1 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, [2] in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. [3] All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. [4] But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. [6] And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, [7] in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. [8] For it is by grace you have

been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-[9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

"For it is be grace you have been saved, through faith..." So as we have been sharing that faith is the process of believing God, trusting God and then acting on that belief and trust. But in order to believe God and believe in God, you must know what God is saying and doing, in order to decide as to what to believe and then act. So if you know nothing or understand nothing of God and the Kingdom of God, how can you decide on what to believe? You have nothing to make the decision to believe in. Then if you cannot make the decision to believe, then how can you decide to trust Him and decide to trust in Him? Then if you cannot trust Him or in Him, how can you act on His commands, requests, leadings, His unction or most importantly, His small still voice, His whisper? You cannot decide, there is nothing to decide on. So you must first have information to make good decisions then you can decide to believe and trust; the next common sense decision is to act on that belief, and trust.

Therefore, the scripture says to first seek the Kingdom of God and then seek His righteousness. Why is that? Well simply, seeking His righteousness is to be seek when and how to act and to be willingly obedient. To know and understand how God lives and how we are to live is not the same as to act willingly obedient to His commands. We know what His commands are, but do we always know how and when to act and fulfill His commands.

So we have two things to do: 1. Know and understand the commands and 2. To know how to act on those commands.

The scriptures say:

MK 16:15 "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. [16] Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. [17] And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; [18] they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Does this scripture say when people are to do this? No! I have tried this, on my own, when I saw someone sick I would lay hands and pray but what? Nothing happened. We tried to pray for a good friend to raise from the dead, but what? Nothing. Why I have prayed and prayed. The bible says it, I have decided to believe it and I acted on my trust in His word and so I had faith. But what? Nothing. Why? What have I missed? Well frankly, everything. I missed everything. You cannot take just one part of the bible, decide to believe in it, decide to trust God and act on His <u>partial</u> word, and then expect it to happen. Sounds contradictory. But it is not, because that is only one part of the bible, not the whole bible, or the summation of the whole bible. It is only to instill belief in God and to know and understand His abilities. It is to instill faith in God and to know and understand His ways of doing things.

In a baseball game, just because you can hit a home run a lot, does not mean that is what you are to do. The coach has a strategy and a plan game, and if he needs you to bunt to get the runner over and set for a grand slam, therefore, you have to bunt. And if you do not, you will be punished and fined, because you were not obedient to the coach. And so it is with the Kingdom of God. Just because you have the faith to heal someone, does not mean that he is to be healed when you want, because God might have other plans for that person's sickness, then God will not heal them. God's will be done.

Later as I learned to hear the small still voice, and when I heard Him say that I should pray for this person's healing, when I prayed for the healing, it happened, because I was in the will of God. This is the final key to faith, the personal Word from God that activates your faith, the faith that moves mountains.

RO 10:16 "But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" [17] Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. [18] But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did:

"Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.""

Here the scripture says that faith comes from hearing the word of Christ. Christ the anointed one and His anointing; through the Holy Spirit. This direct word to you as to what God wants to do. See John 14, 15 and 16.

The small still voice showing you the will of God. And then acting on this final information, you can now have faith that God will surely do it, because He said so directly to you because you are one with God and know what He wants. He will always do what He wants and knows is best.

That is why you need to not only know and understand to have faith, you need to know how to use it and how to be in God's will to use it. That is righteousness. A righteousness person knows God's plan and/or is in tune with Him, because he has seeked His righteousness. So you can see that there is a lot to seeking His righteousness. If you are not sure of how the Kingdom of God works first, then again go back to the other books and learn them first before you continue.

1.3.2 Seek first His Righteousness

So many people do not really understand what this is or what it means. I was always told that it meant "Being right with God." Well that is right but it is not all of what it means. It is more then that. It means to not only do what is right with God, but doing right with His will, doing it willingly, doing it selflessly, and most importantly, doing things out of obedience to God. A summary of being righteous is easy to remember:

"To be willingly obedient to will of God and His small still voice."

To get to this point, you must have been studying and learning and knowing the Kingdom of God, you have a lot of knowledge, but that is not enough. You must know what God want to do too. Just because you know what God did in the past, does not mean that is how God wants to do it again. Things have changed, spiritual circumstances are different, and the spiritual realm has different spirits that require different tactics. You need to seek God to find out how He wants to do it, since He can see the spirit world and can see all that is truly happening. You understand the many ways that God has taken care of these types of problems, but which is the way that is right for this one. You need to seek God and find out how and when He wants to do it.

You must find out what applies to you. God makes many promises and He has stated and pushed things that are meant to instill faith, but you must find out what He wants for you do to in that situation, what He wants, not just what the bible says, or others might have prophesied, but directly for you from Him—listening to His small still voice directly for you, for if you do not you are not being righteous and with out being righteous, you cannot move mountains. There will be more on this in a later chapter, "If the shoe fits."

When you pray, do you pray to find out what God wants to do and be willing to do it? Or are you trying to push God into doing what you think He should do and when He should do it. Are you going into pray full of fear and panic, because you are afraid that something bad might happen and you are trying to get God to fix it before it gets worse?

When you fast, are you fasting with the intention of forcing God to answer your prayer the way you want it; instead of just showing your sincerity of wanting God's will be done. Are you sure you are not trying to force God to do what you think is best because you are filled full of sympathy and worry.

Are you sure you are not full of worry, so you pray and pray and pray trying to figure out a way to force God do to something for you?

Through prayer, a single righteous man moves mountains. See my experience on this in Chapter 1 Appendix—Faith Moves Mountains.

Righteousness