

Christian Living

Chapter 8

2CO 5:6 “Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. [7] **We live by faith, not by sight.** [8] We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. [9] **So we make it our goal to please Him,** whether we are at home in the body or away from it. [10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

Which do you want when you go to heaven and be judged, good or bad?

The only way to guarantee that you will be judged for good is to follow the Lord.

In order to do this you must put your faith into action, you must first have enough faith to do this. You must have faith in those areas that He is asking you to put into action. If you do not, then you cannot do anything. So first He asks you to increase your faith, as in being able to walk and talk and step out into what He is asking you to do. As we discussed, faith is a decision. So you must make the decision to build your faith so that you can do as God leads you in your daily life.


There are two main principles that God has given us to live by,

1. Love God your Lord with all of your heart, mind and body, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

This one you probably know but lets look into this second one.

2. And to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

The first one of loving God we have heard and probably know. But the second one, what does it really mean “To seek the Kingdom of God and to seek His righteousness”? Just are reminder from before.

seek  **Pronunciation Key** (sēk)
v. **sought**, (sôt) **seek·ing**, **seeks**
v. *tr.*

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.

seek

n : the movement of a read/write head to a specific data track on a disk v 1: try to get or reach; "seek a position"; "seek an education"; "seek happiness" 2: try to locate or discover, or try to establish the existence of; "The police are searching for clues"; "They are searching for the missing man in the entire county" [syn: search, look for] 3: make an effort or attempt; "He tried to shake off his fears"; "The infant had essayed a few wobbly steps"; "The police attempted to stop the thief"; "He sought to improve himself"; "She always seeks to do good in the world" [syn: try, attempt, essay, assay] 4: go to or towards; "a liquid seeks its own level" 5: inquire for; "seek directions from a local"

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The dictionaries show seek as to have several meanings, which is why God used that word. It means more than to just look for something.

He says to 1. Seek first the Kingdom of God. Does that mean first only in the reference of God? Does it mean the first thing in your life, or is it only the first thing you do before you go to bed? First what? I believe it means the first thing in your life of every moment of every day. Before you try to do anything for yourself, you first seek God and His Kingdom. To see what He wants for us in our life, before try to act or do what we think. We first seek Him and His idea for our life—our destiny in God.

This means to understand before we understand ourselves, we first understand and know the Kingdom of God, which simply means to know and understand how God does things. To understand how the Kingdom of God works, how it functions, how it operates and how we are to live in it. We are the children of God; we have been adopted by God; and our adoption was paid for by Jesus, by His blood, by His suffering, by His love for us.

Once we were adopted by God, He put us to live in His Kingdom. So if we are to live in His Kingdom, we need to FIRST understand how His kingdom works. Because so far in our life we have only been taught how to live in the kingdom of our enemy

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."

Now He insists that we learn out of our own free will, above we were forced to learn and live in the kingdom of our enemy, but God forces no one, so we must on our own free will, seek the Kingdom of God. Then means we must, must, must learn how God does things in His Kingdom. And remember as we discussed in the previous chapter, He will not leave us alone, but He has provided the Holy Spirit to teach us all things of God and Jesus.

JN 14:25 "All this I have spoken while still with you. [26] But the Counselor, **the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.** [27] Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

So He believe so strongly in Seeking—Knowing--First the Kingdom of God, that God has given us a special Helper to help us obey God. He will teach you. To teach means that you are to learn, to understand and to know. To increase your knowledge of God and His Kingdom. It is everyone's job, duty and life to learn and know and so to have knowledge of God and His Kingdom.

God says that we are to repent. What is it to really repent? It means to renew, but to renew what? It is to renew your mind, to renew your understanding of God, it means to renew your knowledge of God. Why is that so important? Because it all effects your faith. And without faith you are nothing.

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."

You are saved through your faith. But has a gift, but if you do not have faith enough to receive it—to accept it—then God's gift will be wasted.

This is why He says that we must repent, so that we can know Him and in knowing Him we have decide to have faith in Him. For if we do not know Him, we cannot have faith in what we do not know.

So we must know all that there is to know about God, the Kingdom of God and the Will of God.

RO 12:1 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. [2] **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

1CO 2:6 “We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. [7] **No, we speak of God's secret wisdom**, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. [8] None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. [9] However, as it is written:

"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared for those who love Him" --

1CO 2:10 but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. [11] For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. [12] We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. [13] This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. [14] The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. [15] The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

1CO 2:16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord
that he may instruct Him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.”

This mind of Christ only comes from repentance for the old kingdom of satan and to renewing of your mind to the Kingdom of God and to know and understand all of the Kingdom of God. Then you will have the faith that moves mountains, because now you are one with God.

JN 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **[7] If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.** [8] This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.

JN 15:9 "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. [10] **If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love.** [11] I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [12] My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are My friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, **for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you.** [16] You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. [17] This is My command: Love each other."

This now leads us to the next first thing, that is to Seek first His righteousness. Before we seek things for ourselves—i.e. Food, shelter, clothing and things—He says that we are to now seek first His righteousness. So now I ask, what is “His righteousness”?

Many people, who really did not know, used to tell me that it meant, “To be right with Him”. Well they kind of come close, but no cigar.

If you simply look into the bible to find out what others were considered righteous, you get a clue.

Here is God’s definition:

DT 6:20 “In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?" [21] tell him: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. [22] Before our eyes the LORD sent miraculous signs and wonders--great and terrible--upon Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. [23] But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land that he promised on oath to our forefathers. [24] The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. **[25] And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.**"

Now I realize that we are not under the law as above, however we are under His grace, but what it does do is to show us God’s definitions of things, such as this. So what this means is that if we were to obey all of the law, then we would be righteous. What this means is that those who obey God, are considered righteous in His eyes.

Lets look at what people did to be considered righteous. I know that these are a few scriptures but they are essential to your understanding of this point, so please bear with me.

GE 15:6 “Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.”

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 3:27 “Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. [28] For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. [29] Is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, [30] since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. [31] Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.”

RO 4:1 “What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? [2] **If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works**, he had something to boast about--but not before God. [3] What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

RO 4:16 “**Therefore, the promise comes by faith**, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. [17] As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.”

RO 5:1 “**Therefore, since we have been justified through faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, [2] through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; [4] perseverance, character; and character, hope. [5] And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out **His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit**, whom He has given us.

RO 5:6 “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. [7] Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good

man someone might possibly dare to die. [8] But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

GAL 2:17 "If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! [18] If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. [19] For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. [20] I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me. [21] I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

GAL 3:1 “You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. [2] I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? [3] Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? [4] Have you suffered so much for nothing--if it really was for nothing? [5] Does God give you His Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

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.

JAS 2:18 “But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds (works)."

Show me your faith without deeds (works), and I will show you my faith by what I do. [19] You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder.”

JAS 2:20 “You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds (works) is useless? [21] **Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?** [22] You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and **his faith was made complete by what he did.** [23] And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. [24] You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.”

JAS 2:25 “In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered **righteous for what she did** when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? [26] As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”

2TI 3:10 “You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, [11] persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet

the Lord rescued me from all of them. [12] In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. [14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, [15] and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,** [17] so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Finally,

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.”**”

In short, what is all of this? It is obedience. They were all considered righteous because they acted or were obedient to God because of their faith in God. As James says, they showed their faith by what they did. IT was an active faith. Seeking His righteousness, it to seek how to be obedient to God, this is how we show we love Him (John 14, 15, and 16). If you love Me, you will follow My commands, or you will be obedient to the Will of our Father, like Jesus was, even to the cross. Jesus dying on the cross was righteous, for He was obedient to God, even unto death.

So we are back to that again: **FAITH**. The decision to believe what God says, to believe that God will do what He says, to trust that God will do what He says and then for you to do what God asks you to do, and for that He considers you righteous. You have now begun seeking **“His righteousness”**.

