

## **Refresh Week 4 - with Chris Staten**

### **Righteousness defined**

When Adam and Eve sinned and died spiritually, is when they became conscious of sin. After they sinned they became inferior. They became guilty. They felt unworthy. They became insecure. They hid from the Father.

A sin consciousness robs a person from the ability to live free. Or in other words, not being able to get over yourself and past failures, not seeing yourself through your identity in Christ. People feel not worthy enough to have a relationship with God because of their past and present failures.

Jesus put us right back in the garden where Adam and Eve were in the beginning. Jesus

sacrificed his life for our sin so that we can live free from guilt and unworthiness. We can stand in the presence of the Father freely without a consciousness of sin. We don't have to earn our place with him.

## **What is righteousness?**

Right standing, reconciled or put in right relationship with the Father. It is the ability to stand in the presence of the Father without the sense of guilt, fear, insecurity and unworthiness as if sin never existed.

16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away;

behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **(2 Corinthians 5:16-21 NASB1995)**

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and

not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. **(1 John 2:1-2 NASB1995)**

16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.” **(Galatians 2:16 NASB1995)**

The Father sent Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice to cover our sin. We have to decide if we are going to live according to our own self righteousness or receive His (Jesus’s) righteousness through faith.

Many believers go back and forth. They often judge themselves and others according to their own self-righteousness, instead of the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ's sacrifice. We often forget that none of us are perfect in our own ability. It is the righteousness of Christ through faith which makes us righteous.

We are called to tell the world that Christ loves them regardless of what they have done in the past or present. Jesus's sacrifice and love is bigger than all of our shortcomings.

## **Righteousness Restored**

### **A. Fellowship is Restored**

We are back in the Garden of Eden.

Relationship is restored. We have it better than Adam and Eve because the Father is with us every moment of our lives. He lives in us. Now the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are with us and live in us. We have fellowship with them.

He is our Father. Our lives are intertwined. His life is my life. He justified (made us righteous) us in spirit by making us new creations.

“What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life — and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 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. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.”

### **1 John 1:1-4 NASB1995**

<https://www.bible.com/100/1jn.1.1-4.nasb1995>

### **B. Faith is restored**

We have confidence that our prayers are always answered because we are righteous. Our Father always hears us and backs us up because of his love for us. We have assurance that our prayers will produce power because we are righteous.

“Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in

the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.”

**James 5:14-15 NASB1995**

<https://www.bible.com/100/jas.5.14-15.nasb1995>

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.”

**James 5:16-18 NASB1995**

<https://www.bible.com/100/jas.5.16-18.nasb1995>

## **C. Freedom is restored**

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (**Hebrews 9:13-14 NASB1995**)

We can be free from guilt, unworthiness and have confidence and boldness before Him.

**Hebrews 10:1-22**

**Romans 8:29-39**