

Righteousness by Faith

@Chestatee SDA

Chestatee Prayer Ministry Team presents

Righteousness by Faith



CHAPTER 1 | THE DEFINITION

Basics of Righteousness by Faith

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The Great Controversy and going deeper

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DOCTRINE *from the first century church to Martin Luther to the 1888 GC session*

CHAPTER 6 | LAST GEN THEOLOGY

And perfectionism

CHAPTER 7 | END TIME COUNTERFEITS

Don't be Fooled!

FOUNDATIONAL PASSAGE

Romans 5:1-2 KJV

[1] Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: [2] by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

“The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been, just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents, perfect obedience to the law of God, **perfect righteousness**. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled.”

Steps to Christ, p 62-63

PREFACE

This is going to be a huge study, spanning multiple afternoon sessions, because of the magnitude and depth of the content. This topic is the *foundation* of everything associated with the Great Controversy, the reality that we're living, and is the basis for

your own personal salvation.

Righteousness by Faith permeates all of our doctrines.

It is also what ignited the fuse of the **Protestant Reformation.**

It is a truly epic study, and spans the entire Bible, found in all 66 books, and the principles appears in the majority of the 1189 chapters in the Bible. According to Ellen White it is the **foundation of the third angel's message** and therefore foundational to our purpose and mission as the remnant church. So we need to understand this like the back of our hand!

"Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "it is the third angel's message in **verity**."

E.G. White
Review & Herald
April 1, 1890

Verity means a true, foundational principle.

In our 182 year history, this is the *only* topic that almost split the SDA church in the late 1800s, until Ellen White stepped in. And it certainly will be forefront as the **image of the beast** is formed.. genuine vs counterfeit salvation. Genuine worship vs counterfeit worship.

Most prominent Adventist preachers have good RbyFaith presentations incl John Bradshaw, Walter Vieth, Morris Venden, Ted Wilson, Shawn Boonstra, etc. And of course A. T. Jones and Joseph Waggoner sermon transcripts are available online.

They are worth a listen, but as always.. We encourage you to study for yourself!

This doctrine is the very foundation of our mission, message and purpose,

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Aug 21, 1905

are evil.

Christ and his righteousness,—let this be our platform, the very life of our faith. That which he taught, we are to teach. His commission to his followers is: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature;” “and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

OUTLINE

Topics we will cover through our exploration of Righteousness by Faith, and not in this particular order, some will overlap,

- ✓ Biblical definition with EGW insights
- ✓ Hebrew and Greek word studies
- ✓ Understanding the doctrine correctly
- ✓ RbyFaith in the Great Controversy
- ✓ Principle illustrations throughout the Bible
- ✓ Including righteousness in Bible charac

- ✓ How the theology applies to *you*
- ✓ RbyFaith in the Three Angels Message
- ✓ RbyFaith in the Sanctuary
- ✓ James chapter 2, faith and works
- ✓ Imputed vs Imparted righteousness
- ✓ Martin Luther and the Reformation
- ✓ The 1888 General Conference session
- ✓ Righteousness and the Remnant
- ✓ The counterfeit and end time events
- ✓ Perfection and last generation

theology

- ✓ Righteousness by faith throughout

eternity

- ✓ Justification + sanctification =

RbyFaith

- ✓ We will build a Bible based theology



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CHAPTER 1 | THE DEFINITION

Precept upon precept, Isa 28.10

Righteousness by Faith

In the Old Testament Hebrew
The phrases "Righteousness by Faith" and
"Justification by Faith" are **synonymous**,
because the root Hebrew word tsaddiq
(and the matching Greek word dikaios)
can be translated into English as either
Righteous or Just as shown below.

In both Hebrew and Greek notice the
judicial implications in the English
translations,

צַדִּיק

Lexical Summary

tsaddiq: Righteous, just

Original Word: צַדִּיק

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: tsaddiyq

Pronunciation: tsad-deek'

Phonetic Spelling: (tsad-deek')

KJV: just, lawful, righteous (man)

NASB: righteous, righteous man, just, righteous ones, right, righteous men, Righteous One

Word Origin: [from H6663 (צַדִּיק - righteous)]

1. just

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

just, lawful, righteous man

From **tsadaq**; just -- just, lawful, righteous (man).

see HEBREW **tsadaq**

From the different English translations

Habakkuk 2:4 **KJV**

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the **just** (tsaddiq) shall live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 **NKJV**

“Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the **just** (tsaddiq) shall live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 **NIV**

“See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the **righteous** (tsaddiq) person will live by his faithfulness

Habakkuk 2:4 **NASB**

“Behold, as for the impudent one, His soul is not right within him; But the **righteous** (tsaddiq) one will live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 **RV1885**

Behold, his soul is puffed up, it is not upright in him: but the **just** (tsaddiq) shall live by his faith.

Typically the KJV and NKJV translates it to **Just**, the other translations to **Righteous**. But it's the same thing. EGW typically used *Justification by Faith* in her writings because she didn't have the modern translations, only the KJV and RV.

In the New Testament *Koine Greek*

✦ AI Overview



The verb form "justify" (from the Greek root *dikaioō*) appears about **40 times** in the New Testament, while the noun form "justification" (*dikaiosis*) appears only twice. The term is frequently used in Romans and Galatians, often in the context of being declared righteous before God through faith. [🔗](#)

Romans 5:1 KJV

Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Notice this is past tense... **Justified**

You can have peace with God right now.

δικαίόω

Lexical Summary

dikaioó: To justify, to declare righteous, to acquit

Original Word: δικαίω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: dikaioó

Pronunciation: dik-ah-yo'-o

Phonetic Spelling: (dik-ah-yo'-o)

KJV: free, justify(-ier), be righteous

NASB: justified, justify, freed, vindicated, justifies, acknowledged justice, acquitted

Word Origin: [from **G1342** (δικαίος - righteous)]

◀ 1. to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent ▶

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

free, justify, be righteous.

From **dikaios**; to render (i.e. Show or regard as) just or innocent -- free, justify(-ier), be righteous.

see GREEK **dikaios**

The original **Greek** root word is **dikaios** and has the meaning of "being declared innocent" or to be justified, to be shown right.

◀ 1342. dikaios ▶

Lexical Summary

dikaios: Righteous, just, upright

Original Word: δίκαιος

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: dikaios

Pronunciation: dee-KAH-yos

Phonetic Spelling: (dik'-ah-yos)

KJV: just, meet, right(-eous)

NASB: righteous, righteous man, right, just, righteous one, innocent, justice

Word Origin: [from **G1349** (δίκη - justice)]

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: 1342 *díkaios* (an adjective, derived from *dikē*, "right, **judicial approval**") – properly, "approved by God" (J. Thayer); *righteous*; "just in the eyes of God" (Souter). See 1343 (*"dikaiosynē"*).

["Righteous" relates to *conformity* to God's *standard* (justice). For more on the root-idea see the cognate noun, 1343 /*dikaiosýnē* ("righteousness").]

1342 /*díkaios* ("righteous, just") describes what is in conformity to God's own being (His will, standard of rightness); hence "upright."

Righteous, Just = being made right with God, declared just, innocent, and set free.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 KJV

[20] Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God.**

Romans 5:1 KJV

Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:

And it's appropriate for it to be presented from a **legal context** seeing how a heavenly judgment has begun ⚖️ You are in a legal mess! Unchangeable laws have been broken and there's a heavy price to pay.

Daniel 7:10 KJV

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

We stand condemned, *without righteousness.*

Precept upon precept, Isa 28.10

Righteousness **BY** Faith

Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)



by

/bɪ/

preposition

1. identifying the agent performing an action.
2. indicating the means of achieving something.

"malaria can be controlled by attacking the parasite"

By = the means by which. It's a **vehicle** to get to the destination, a conveyance.. which in this case is faith.

Precept upon precept, Isa 28.10
Righteousness by **FAITH**



Let the **Bible** define it, from the beginning of the Great Faith Chapter,

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Eyesight is key here 🕶️

ev·i·dence

/ˈevəd(ə)n(t)s/ noun

the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.

Hebrews 11:2 KJV

For by it the **elders** obtained a good report.

The elders here are all the patriarchs who follow in chapter 11. They are *commended* for their faith!

First of all, what is "hoped for"?

Colossians 1:27 KJV

to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory:

And then Paul goes on in chapter 11 to give **examples** of biblical faith,

Hebrews 11:3 KJV

Through **faith** we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. (*or are visible*)

In other words, the world was made from nothing that was already existing. This is one of the things Satan, or anyone, could never do: *create something from nothing*. Because we are the creation. Life belongs to God alone



Question

Why is this a great example of faith?

Paul continues, and his examples of faith get deeper, and to the heart of worship,

Hebrews 11:4 KJV

By **faith** Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

There's a **principle** here that we'll talk more about in coming presentations. And it is this,

FAITH IS MORE THAN JUST A
PRINCIPLE OR A BELIEF.
GENUINE FAITH IS
DEMONSTRATED

It is *lived out*, even, or especially if, it is difficult or unpopular to do so. Daniel chapter 3 for example.

Ellen White puts it this way in *Gospel Workers*, pg 260... "Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience"

And by the way, of course Satan has a **counterfeit to faith**,

“True faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption, **for presumption is Satan’s counterfeit of faith**”

Gospel Workers, p 260

"The storm is coming, the storm that will try every man's faith of what sort it is. Believers must now be firmly rooted in Christ or else they will be led astray by some phase of error"

Last Day Events



Question

What is a modern day religious example of **presumption**? And how is it related to "some phase of error" she predicts above.

And then EGW expands the definition of faith in the book *Education*, pg 253...

"Faith is trusting God—believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good"

Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths.

🤔 Question

There is a definite **benefit** to *trust* found in that verse. What is it?

Hebrew word translated to **trust** is בָּטַח "batach" meaning.. be bold, confident, secure, sure, careless one, put confidence in. How does this relate to these verses,

Hebrews 4:15-16 KJV

[15] For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come **boldly** unto the throne of

grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Biblical definition of righteousness

The source of righteousness

Psalm 145:17 KJV

The LORD is righteous in all his ways,
And holy in all his works.

Romans 3:21 KJV

But now the righteousness of God
without the law is manifested, being
witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Romans 1:17 KJV

For therein is the righteousness of God
revealed from faith to faith: as it is
written, The just shall live by faith.

1 Corinthians 1:30 KJV

But of him are ye in **Christ Jesus**, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and **righteousness**, and sanctification, and redemption:

Matthew 6:33 KJV

[33] But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and **his righteousness**; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Notice that the Bible, old to new testaments, is **consistent** on this topic, no contradictions. This fact alone gives us *confidence* in the Word of God.



Question

Based on the Bible, what is righteousness?

Ps 145.17 "The Lord is righteous." Period. It is a declarative statement of fact. The

very nature of God is **righteous**. And the reality of this is *revealed* through His works.. "in all his ways"

As we'll see, it works exactly the same way with the redeemed. We'll unpack this important principle as we go along,

Rom 3.21 Righteousness clearly **originates** from God alone. This fact becomes crucial to understanding this doctrine correctly, and is the core of our very salvation. Genuine righteousness cannot be manufactured, or faked.

Romans 1.17 The Father has *revealed* **His** righteousness to the world through His Son. This is the *evidence* of things hoped for.

John 14:9 KJV

.. he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;

1 Corinthians 1.30 Jesus IS

righteousness.

Also notice the progression of the results of faith in vs 30! Wisdom..

righteousness.. sanctification..
redemption.

Using Matthew 22 as an example, Ellen White puts it this way in ***Christ's Object Lessons***,

"This covering, the robe of His **own righteousness**, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul"

Ellen White agrees in *Mount of Blessing*, p 18

"The righteousness
of God is embodied
in Christ.

We receive
righteousness by
receiving Him."

2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV

For he hath made him to be sin for us,
who knew no sin; that we might be made
the **righteousness of God in him.**

Also echoed in the old testament,

Jeremiah 23:5-6 KJV

[5] Behold, the days come, saith the LORD,

that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. [6] In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE Lord OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

So in the end, the very best definition of righteousness **is Jesus**. He doesn't just *have* righteousness, or *give* righteousness.. He **IS** righteousness, according to the Bible. It is His very substance. And it is His to give!

Righteousness isn't just a concept or actions. Ultimately the best definition for righteousness is a Person. Jesus Christ IS righteousness.



Righteousness by Faith 02.28.26

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Promote



Save

Understanding it this way, puts things in the right order. It's the same principle as the Sabbath, which is a weekly reminder that we are the creation, depending completely on our Creator. **Jesus is righteousness** reminds us where our own righteousness comes from, including our right doing. We are completely dependent on Him for everything. Including the very power to do right to begin with! If you see it this way, then your *right doing* comes

from your right relationship with God, not from any other reasons or motives. Including spiritual pride, which is a real thing.

If as EGW wrote, "**only perfect righteousness**" will get us to heaven (Steps to Christ, p 62) then **Jesus** is your only hope to get there. That's why Jesus said this,

John 14:6 KJV

Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

JESUS
IS
RIGHTEOUSNESS

John 1:14 KJV

And the **Word** was made flesh, and dwelt among us..

And **righteousness** was made flesh, and dwelt among us..

Jesus **is** righteousness, Jesus is **your** righteousness. So therefore we need to seek HIM,

Zephaniah 2:3 KJV

Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; **seek righteousness**, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.

Seek righteousness = seek Jesus

Jeremiah 29:13-14 KJV

[13] And ye shall seek **me**, and find **me**, when ye shall search for **me** with all your heart. [14] And I will be found of you, saith

the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity..

Seek God first, the right doing comes *from that*. The *captivity* in this verse is to the downward spiral of sin. Notice that it's an all or nothing search effort.. All your heart.

Jesus taught the same thing in a parable,

Matthew 13:45-46 KJV

[45] Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: [46] who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold **all** that he had, and bought it.

Ellen White agrees, *Mount of Blessing*, p 18

"The righteousness
of God is **embodied**
in Christ.

We receive
righteousness by
receiving Him."

Some define righteousness as "**right
doing**"

1 John 3:7 KJV

Little children, let no man deceive you: he
that doeth righteousness is righteous,
even as he is righteous.

And this is true, in the right order. It's all

about cause and effect, and it's much deeper than *performance*, as we'll see. It goes to the heart. True obedience comes from love and respect. True worship comes from the heart and a *saving relationship with your Creator*.

KEY POINT #1

Right doing **comes from** a right relationship with God. Right actions **demonstrates** righteousness, they never produce it.

If they did, then you would be capable of creating your own righteousness.

Isaiah 64:6 KJV

But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all**

our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

It's all about getting the theological horse in front of the cart, and keeping it there. Understanding our helplessness.

This was **Martin Luther's** *paradigm shift* in the early 1500s that sparked the Protestant Reformation,

Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that 'the just shall live by his faith.' Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.

Martin Luther

Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not.

Martin Luther

Jesus, Might, Sin



He [Christ] died for me. He made His righteousness mine and made my sin His own; and if He made my sin His own, then I do not have it, and I am free.

Martin Luther

And then we defined **FAITH** using the Bible,

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

Now faith is the substance of things

hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

The statement here shouldn't be regarded as a complete definition of faith, but rather lays out the basic foundation of it.. in this life we're living, without being able to actually **see God**. The rest of chapter 11 proves to us without question that saving faith is more than a mental assent to something. **Saving faith** is *demonstrated* (or proved) through our actions and obedience. Last time we met, we looked at numerous examples of this truth in the Bible.

CHAPTER 2 | THE MESS THAT WE'RE IN *The Great Controversy*

This is a comprehensive study, looking at every aspect and angle of the topic, to get a *complete understanding*. This should be our approach with every topic.

We will start with the Endgame,

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 KJV

[20] Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye **reconciled to God**. [21] For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Romans 5:1 KJV

Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Reconciliation and peace with God is the goal. See Revelation 21.3

The endgame is **complete restoration** that we read about in the final two chapters of Revelation. We will get there in our final presentation. But for now,

We have a big problem. Let the Bible define sin..

1 John 3:4 KJV

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: *for sin is the transgression of the law.*

Romans 3:20 KJV

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: *for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Transgressing God's moral law is the very definition of sin. So obviously it's a huge deal! **But is this the mess we're in?** *The core of it*, if you drill down to the real issue. Here's the real issue in one sad verse,

Genesis 3:9 KJV

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, **Where art thou?**

In those three words is found our real problem: **separation from God**. So at its core, the mess we're in isn't so much a "doing right or wrong" issue, **It's a relationship issue**. The *results* of which

are seen in our works, good or bad. And the sin that inevitably comes from that broken relationship *causes* the separation.

The Pharisees had this twisted. To them, their religion, or being right with God, was all about **obedience**. *On the outside*. A performance_based religion. Check the boxes  Make no mistake about it, this can be done, with a holy appearance on the outside (a mask), but secret sins and wrong motives on the inside. Jesus confronted them numerous times on this in the Gospels, and put the theological horse in front of the cart,

Matthew 23:26 KJV

Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is **within** the cup and platter, that the **outside** of them may be clean also.

Inside first, then the outside follows.
Internal transformation.

Matthew 5:21-22 KJV

[21] Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall **kill** shall be in danger of the judgment: [22] but I say unto you, That whosoever is **angry** with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment..

We even see this principle in this famous statement that we use to uphold the Law of God,

Mark 7:8 KJV

For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

There's the Pharisitical man-made check list.. Traditions. Forgetting that the Law of God brings us in harmony with God,

Hebrews 10:16 KJV

This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days, saith the Lord, I will

put my laws into their hearts, And in their minds will I write them;

SIN SEPARATES *is the bottom line*

Isaiah 59:1-2 KJV

[1] Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: [2] but your iniquities have **separated** between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, May 31, 1870

"The sin of Adam and Eve caused a fearful **separation** between God and man"



Because a perfect, holy God can't hang with a miserable, wretched sinner. **Sin separates.** And in that thought, is the mess we're in.. Separation from God.

Genesis 3:6 KJV

[6] And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Where was the moment of transgression?

It was *before* she took a bite of the forbidden fruit. "And the woman **saw**".. she *processed* the information and what the serpent had said. She looked and considered it. She rationalized her transgression. She was fooled. But it started internally,

Mark 7:21-23 KJV

[21] For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, [22] thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: [23] all these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

It was the same with the Fall of Lucifer,

Isaiah 14:12-13 KJV

[12] How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou

cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! [13] For thou hast said in thine **heart**, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

This is why we will be judged by our works,

Revelation 20:12 KJV

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, **according to their works.**

Our works are an outward demonstration of what's going on inside,

Sin is a heart issue

Which causes the broken relationship

Which manifests itself in our evil deeds

Likewise

Righteousness is a heart issue

Which heals the broken relationship

Which manifests itself in our good deeds

 **If you keep the moral law consistently, perfectly.. does that make you righteous?**

Romans 3:20 KJV

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

The moral law only *reveals* sin, it does not produce righteousness.

for by the law is the
knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20

"deeds of the law" means keeping it, which is repeatedly upheld in the Bible.. **but it doesn't justify us.** The purpose of the Law is to point out our shortcomings and sinfulness. It's a mirror,

God's moral law is a **reflection** of what's going on on the inside. Object Lesson,



Looking at it this way, **James 1** makes perfect sense,

James 1:23-25 KJV

[23] For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: [24] for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. [25] But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but

a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Like a pressure gauge, the Law of God is a reflection of what's going on in the heart. It reflects where our loyalty lies.

This is why Ellen White wrote that the mark of the beast is a "test for the people of God"

It's a **test** of where we have *already* stored up our treasure (Matt 6.19), the right decisions will come from that.

She makes it clear in *Steps to Christ*, page 17 that the real issue is the **heart**,

"In his sinless state, man held joyful

communion with Him "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." But after his sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he sought to hide from the presence of God. Such is still the condition of the unrenewed heart. It is not in harmony with God, and finds no joy in communion with Him. The sinner could not be happy in God's presence; he would shrink from the companionship of holy things"

Communion, presence of God, harmony with God, companionship. To Ellen White, our real problem is a relationship issue, a heart problem.

The sin problem comes
from a **relationship**
problem.

You want to fix the sin
problem, start with the
relationship.

Jeremiah 29:13 KJV

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when
ye shall search for me with all your **heart**.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 KJV

[26] A new heart also will I give you, and a
new spirit will I put within you: and I will
take away the stony heart out of your
flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

[27] And I will put my spirit within you, and
cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye
shall keep my judgments, and do them.

We can't fix the real problem! Paul understood the situation he was in very clearly when he wrote these words,

Romans 7:24 KJV

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

So did the prophet Isaiah,

Isaiah 64:6 KJV

But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses** are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

"Our righteousness"... Check list righteousness without conversion, is as filthy rags, useless to salvation.

***Steps to Christ*, page 43**

By nature we are alienated from God. The Holy Spirit describes our condition in such words as these: "Dead in trespasses and sins;" "the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint"; "no soundness in it." We are held fast in the snare of Satan; "taken captive by him at his will." **Ephesians 2:1; Isaiah 1:5, 6; 2 Timothy 2:26.** God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him.

YOU can't fix the heart problem, but the Holy Spirit can. If you let Him.

🤔 Notice **what** she says is the **one thing** you can and have to do to get out of the mess were in,

"We must yield ourselves wholly to Him"

In those 7 words is found the difference between the broad and narrow roads.

Complete surrender is required for sanctification, for salvation. More on this

in future presentations! But needless to say it is a big deal, and it's where the Enemy of God's people puts all of his energy and resources,

Convincing you
that partial
surrender is
good enough.

- ≡ ○ We hear this lie from the pulpits of Babylon (once saved always saved),
- ≡ ○ From society (life is all about me),
- ≡ ○ And particularly through social media (distracting you completely)

This is why putting your efforts into trying hard to obey without being completely surrendered is a losing effort. Satan would love nothing more than to keep you on that treadmill of frustration.

The effort goes into surrendering. It goes into making and keeping the connection. Into the relationship,

John 15:5 KJV

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

The Doctrine of Original Sin

And the nature of Christ

 **At what point did YOU become separated from God?**

Psalms 58:3 KJV

The wicked are estranged from the womb:

They go astray as soon as they be born,
speaking lies.

Romans 3:10-11 KJV

[10] as it is written, There is none
righteous, no, not one: [11] There is none
that understandeth, There is none that
seeketh after God.

**Are you held *accountable* at birth? Are
you *guilty* at birth? *This really doesn't
seem fair***

Ezekiel 18:20 KJV

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son
shall not bear the iniquity of the father,
neither shall the father bear the iniquity of
the son: the righteousness of the
righteous shall be upon him, and the
wickedness of the wicked shall be upon
him.

Psalms 25:8 KJV

Good and upright is the LORD: Therefore
will he teach sinners in the way.

Deuteronomy 32:4 KJV

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: For all his ways are judgment: A God of truth and without iniquity, Just and right is he.

Acts 17:30 KJV

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Where would be the fairness in holding someone accountable and guilty before they can even make a decision?

But yet this is exactly what the Catholic Church teaches. Sin is like a virus that is naturally contracted at birth. And the guilt that comes with it,

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The Council of Trent defined original sin as “the death of the soul.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reaffirmed this definition (403) and added a key nuance: original sin is called *sin* “only in an analogical sense: it is a sin ‘contracted’ and not ‘committed’—a state and not an act” (404).

The truth is,

We have *inherited* Adam's **sinful nature**, but not the guilt, until we transgress the Law.

“It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God’s law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law.”

EGW | Review & Herald | Nov 11, 1915

When we get to "final generation theology" we're going to watch a few video clips of Adventist theologians and evangelists explain this in further detail, and discuss.

The Origins of Sin

We can't perfectly obey the Law in and of ourselves because of our bent towards

sin, which EGW describes this way,

"Sin originated in self-seeking"

Desire of Ages, Chapter 1

The highest angel in heaven, the greatest of the created beings, Lucifer, closest to God, used his free will and rebelled against God.

Luke 10:18 KJV

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.



Ezekiel 28.13 - 19



Isaiah 14.12 - 16



Revelation 12.7 - 9

Ellen White gives us some insight into Lucifer's thinking before his rebellion,

Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God, and called forth no gratitude to the Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged sovereign of Heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the counsels of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. "Why," questioned this mighty angel, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is he thus honored above Lucifer?" {GC88 495.1}

So this is the mess we're in. Now we're going to look at God's solution in the lives and actions of people throughout the Bible,

CHAPTER 3 | EXAMPLES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS *throughout the Bible*

Romans 1:17 KJV

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.



Adam and his wife Eve in Genesis 2-3 tells the story of the beginning of humanity. It paints a picture of God's ideal for us, then shows the reality of the power of choice. We're shown the fall of man, and then almost immediately God's provision for our redemption.

Here's **their** attempt at covering their newfound sinfulness,

Genesis 3:7 KJV

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made

themselves aprons.

Here's **God's** *divine act* that symbolizes the cure,

Genesis 3:21 KJV

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Christ's Object Lessons, p 310-312

I counsel thee to buy of me ... white raiment, that you mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear. Revelation 3:18

"The white robe of innocence was worn by our first parents when they were placed by God in holy Eden. They lived in perfect conformity to the will of God. All the strength of their affections was given to their heavenly Father. A beautiful soft light, the light of God, enshrouded the holy pair. This robe of light was a symbol of

their spiritual garments of heavenly innocence. Had they remained true to God, it would ever have continued to enshroud them. But when sin entered, they severed their connection with God, and the light that had encircled them departed. Naked and ashamed, they tried to supply the place of the heavenly garments by sewing together fig leaves for a covering.

This is what the transgressors of God's law have done ever since the day of Adam and Eve's disobedience. They have sewed together fig leaves to cover the nakedness caused by transgression. They have worn the garments of their own devising, by works of their own they have tried to cover their sins, and make themselves acceptable with God.

But this they can never do. Nothing can man devise to supply the place of his lost robe of innocence. No fig-leaf garments, no worldly citizen dress, can be worn by

those who sit down with Christ and angels at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul."

- ≡ ○ In this section is found.. The problem, the counterfeit solution, and the real solution.
- ≡ ○ What was their first reaction to the sin problem?
- ≡ ○ How does that reflect the false church today?
- ≡ ○ How can we fall in that same trap, even in the Remnant church?
- ≡ ○ The parable of the wedding feast (Matt 22.1-22) teaches the truth that righteousness is found only in Christ.
- ≡ ○ Notice that the robe of righteousness can't be worn with an unrepentant heart.

≡ ○ What is the real solution to the sin problem?

The story of Cain and Able presents all the major themes found in the Great Controversy. At the end of time, type will meet anti-type when each person will have to decide if they are a Cain, or an Able.



Their contrast is seen in these two verses,

Matthew 23:34-35 KJV

[34] Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and

some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and **persecute** them from city to city: [35] that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of **righteous Abel** unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Hebrews 11:4 KJV

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Abel's offering had been accepted, but this was because Abel had done in every particular as God required him to do.—**Signs of the Times, December 16, 1886.**

James 2:26 KJV

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

We're going to see this **theme** throughout all of our righteousness case studies.

Another theme is the unavoidable fact that the unrighteous always persecutes the righteous,

Matthew 10:34 KJV

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.



Noah is listed in the Faith chapter of Hebrews 11,

Hebrews 11:7 KJV

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

- ≡ ○ "things not seen" echos the definition of faith from verse 1
- ≡ ○ Noah *demonstrated* genuine faith.
How?
- ≡ ○ Again, we see the biblical concept of one side or the other without a middle ground.
- ≡ ○ How was Noah the **heir** of righteousness?



heir

/er/

An heir is a person legally entitled to inherit the property, assets, or title of another person upon their death, typically determined by blood relation, marriage, or law. Heirs are often designated when someone dies without a will (intestate), though the term can broadly apply to anyone receiving an inheritance.  The Probate Pro +1

This does not mean that righteousness, or salvation, is passed down generation to generation, because of the freedom of choice. It's available generation after generation, but only if you take it. It does show the **continuity** of righteousness and the **seamless thread** of God's remnant people throughout the Bible. The point of Hebrews 11 is to show us that. Are you part of chapter 11?



Enoch is mentioned right before Noah in chapter 11. Let's see what defined righteousness with him,

Hebrews 11:5 KJV

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Testimony is defined as "evidence given by a witness under oath". Again, one of the

key words in the biblical definition of faith is **evidence**. That evidence is **obedience**.

This pleases God! It is *evidence* that the separation has been removed, we are righteous (presently) and we can now **walk** with God, like Enoch did,

Genesis 5:24 KJV

and Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Romans 8:1 KJV

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who **walk** not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:7-8 KJV

[7] Because the carnal mind is **enmity** against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. [8] So then they that are in the flesh **cannot please God**.



So far we've seen multiple reoccurring principles in our righteousness by faith study,

- ✓ There is no middle ground, see *Revelation 3.14-22, Joshua 24.15, Rev 13*
- ✓ Righteousness originates from God alone, *Phillipians 3.9, 2 Cor 5.21, Jer 23.6*
- ✓ Our works of obedience **demonstrates** the reality of righteousness in our lives, *Romans 5.18, 6.16, 8.10, 1 John 3:7*
- ✓ In other words, we don't obey God to *become* righteous, but rather our obedience *proves* our relationship and

righteousness before a watching universe.

✓ This righteousness *results* in our reconciliation with God, and present peace with God, *Romans 5.1-2, Revelation 21.3-4, 2 Cor 5.18-20*

✓ A righteous character is a pure heart,

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20.

The righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees was of a selfish character, consisting of external forms. The righteousness which God requires is internal as well as external. **The heart must be purified**, else Christ cannot be enthroned there. The life must be conformed to the will of God. *26Letter 102, 1901.*

Matthew 5:8 KJV

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Father Abraham teaches a critical truth

about righteousness by faith.



Genesis

12

Promises to Abram

Genesis 12:1-4

Fast forward.. famine and the journey to Egypt, return to the Negev, parting with Lot, then rescuing Lot. Roughly 10 years pass from God's initial call to leave in Gen 12, to God's covenant with Abraham in Gen 15.

Genesis

15

God's Covenant with Abram

Genesis 15:1-6

Hebrews 11:8-9 KJV

[8] By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. [9] By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

≡ ○ Abraham obeyed in **faith** (Gen 12)

- ≡ ○ Abraham **believed** in faith (Gen 15)
- ≡ ○ Genuine faith operates without sight.. "not knowing" (Heb 11, definition of faith)
- ≡ ○ "By faith" means *trusting completely*, and then doing! Abraham is the prime example of this!

Truth: All of our biblical examples of RbyFaith involve obedience out of faith. Obedience that *comes from* an established relationship with God. Exercising free will to follow the will of God, builds that relationship.

James 2:5 KJV

Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in **faith**, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that **love** him?

Faith and trust comes from love. Did Abraham **know** the *Only True God* before the events of Genesis 12?

Patriarchs & Prophets, Ch 11

Genesis 15:4-6 KJV

And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

At this point, had any of the promises God made actually come true? God declared Abram righteous simply because of Abraham's faith and trust in Yahweh's Word.

Faith leads to genuine
righteousness.

Faith alone puts us in right
standing with God initially.

Romans 5:1-2 becomes a reality.

Romans 5:1-2 KJV

[1] Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord

Jesus Christ: [2] by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Paul nails it down here,

Romans 4:1-8 KJV

[1] What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? [2] For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. [3] For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. [4] Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. [5] But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. [6] Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, [7] saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, And whose sins are covered. [8]

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

In other words, you can never say "God **owes me this** because of... make a list. We've seen how this thinking can turn out,

Matthew 7:21-23 KJV

[21] Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. [22] Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Ellen White puts it this way,

“Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness” (**Romans 4:3-5**).

Righteousness is obedience to the law. The law demands righteousness, and this the sinner owes to the law; but he is incapable of rendering it. **The only way in which he can attain to righteousness is through faith.** By faith he can bring to God the merits of Christ, and the Lord places the obedience of His Son to the sinner's account. Christ's righteousness is accepted in place of man's failure, and God receives, pardons, justifies, the repentant, believing soul, treats him as though he were righteous, and loves him as He loves His Son. This is how faith is accounted righteousness; and the pardoned soul goes on from grace to grace, from light to a greater light. **³⁴Selected Messages 1:366, 367.**

The good works, which includes obedience to the Law, are done **from** the restored relationship with God,

IT'S AN ACT OF LOVE.

Not of obligation. Understanding it this way, these two verses make perfect sense, and go hand in hand,

Romans 10:9-10 KJV

[9] that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

John 14:15 KJV

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Ellen White wrote in *Christ's Object Lessons*, chapter 24

“This robe, woven
in the loom of
heaven, has in it
not one thread of
human devising.”

This includes your **obedience** to the Law.
And all the good works you do!

Romans 3:20 KJV

Therefore by the deeds of the law there
shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for
by the law is the knowledge of sin.

But can we be saved *without* obeying
God's moral law? "God forbid!" Paul wrote
in Rom 6.2. Your obedience comes as a
result of Christ's righteousness, never to
obtain it. More on this in the next Chapter

highlighting the parables of Jesus 📖

There's a difference between imputed vs imparted righteousness,



Imputed righteousness is the legal, instantaneous covering of a believer with Christ's righteousness upon salvation (justification), while imparted righteousness is the ongoing, inward transformation by the Holy Spirit (sanctification). Imputed righteousness deals with standing before God, whereas imparted righteousness deals with character development. [GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org) +3

Abraham is an example of **imputed** righteousness, Jacob is an example of **imparted** righteousness (living it out)



Genesis 32:29-30 KJV

[29] And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. [30] And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1

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Jacob and Esau represent two classes: Jacob, the righteous; and Esau, the wicked. Jacob's distress when he learned that Esau was marching against him with four hundred men, represents the trouble of the righteous as the decree goes forth to put them to death, just before the coming of the Lord. As the wicked gather about them, they will be filled with anguish; for, like Jacob, they can see no escape for their lives. The angel placed himself before Jacob, and he took hold of the angel, and held him, and wrestled with him all night. So also will the righteous, in their time of trouble and anguish, wrestle in prayer with God, as Jacob wrestled with the angel. Jacob in his distress prayed all night for deliverance from the hand of Esau. The righteous in their mental anguish will cry to God day and night for deliverance from the hand of the wicked who surround them.

{1SP 121.1}

≡ ○ What's the difference between Jacob and Esau?

In the *Great Controversy*, Ellen White goes into detail about the application of Jacob's faith to the end times. She explains just how important **imparted righteousness** is for God's remnant people,

The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint, though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it.

Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God....

If the messengers who bear the last solemn warning to the world would pray ... fervently and in faith, as did Jacob, they would find many places where they could say: "I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved" (**Genesis 32:30**). They would be accounted of heaven as princes, having power to prevail with God and men.—**The Great Controversy, 620-622.**

Job is an example of *living* the righteousness of Christ,

Job

1

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. ² And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

Read Job 1:6-12

God uses two adjectives to describe Job's character,

Perfect and upright. Those two character traits led Job to "fear God and avoid evil"

◀ 8535. tam ▶

Lexicon

tam: Blameless, perfect, complete, upright

Original Word: תָּמַם

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: tam

Pronunciation: tahm

Phonetic Spelling: (tawm)

KJV: coupled together, perfect, plain, undefiled, upright

NASB: blameless, guiltless, complete, perfect one, blameless man, integrity, peaceful

Word Origin: [from H8552 (תָּמַם - finished)]

1. complete
2. usually (morally) pious
3. specifically, gentle, dear

Job was **complete in Christ**, as are you if you stay connected to the Vine (Christ),

Colossians 2:9-10 KJV

[9] For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. [10] And ye are **complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power:

Even though Job isn't specifically mentioned in the great faith chapter of **Hebrews 11**, his life fits perfectly with the point of the chapter. Job would fall under the "afflicted and tormented" description of the faithful found in Heb 11.37

Job 13:15-16 KJV

[15] Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: But I will maintain mine own ways before him. [16] He also shall be my salvation:

Echoing the words of the three faithful Hebrews,

Daniel 3:17-18 KJV

[17] If it be so, our God whom we serve is

able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. [18] But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

God had confidence in Job's faithfulness because **before** the testing came, Job's relationship with God was already solid. Ellen White pulls back the curtain on Job's life of faith,

It were well for parents to learn from the man of Uz a lesson of steadfastness and devotion. Job did not neglect his duty to those outside of his household; he was benevolent, kind, thoughtful of the interests of others; and at the same time he labored earnestly for the salvation of his own family. Amid the festivities of his sons and daughters, he trembled lest his children should displease God. As a faithful priest of the household, he offered sacrifices for them individually. He knew the offensive character of sin, and the thought that his children might forget the divine claims, led him to God as an intercessor in their behalf. [21The Review and Herald, August 30, 1881.](#)

Hebrews 11:31 KJV

By faith the **harlot Rahab** perished not
with them that believed not, when she had
received the spies with peace.



Rahab is an example of God's remnant people found *outside* the jar. Agree?

✦ AI Overview



Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute from Jericho, is celebrated in the Bible for her daring faith. By hiding Hebrew spies and defying her king, she protected God's people and secured her family's safety. Her actions are famously cited in the New Testament as the ultimate example of "righteousness" proven by deeds. 

She was a prostitute, but her faith was praised in both Hebrews 11, and James 2. She is also listed in the genealogy of Jesus in **Matt 1:5**

Salmon; ⁵ and Salmon begat Booz of **Rachab**; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; ⁶ and Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her

◀ **Rahab or Rachab** ▶

Jump to: [Smith's](#) • [Greek](#) • [Hebrew](#) •
[Subtopics](#) • [Terms](#)

Here's why Rahab was righteousness,

Joshua 2:11 KJV

... for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

Rahab **knew** the Only True God (Gen 14.18, John 17.3) and trusted in Him. That faith and trust in God, led her to act in faith, and follow the leading of the Holy

From the 2014 SS quarterly "the Book of James"

Thursday: The Faith of Rahab

Posted on [November 5, 2014](#) by [Sabbath School Lesson](#)



"Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?" ([James 2:25, NKJV](#)). Read [Joshua 2:1-21](#). How do we understand this example, again in the context of salvation by faith alone?

According to [Hebrews 11:31](#), the inhabitants of Jericho did not believe. Most modern translations describe them as being "disobedient." The inhabitants of Jericho knew about Israel's signal victories over the Midianites and the Amorites, so they were well aware of the power of Israel's God. God's judgment on Israel at Baalpeor taught the people in Jericho of His holiness as well as His abhorrence of idolatry and immorality: *"All these events were known to the inhabitants of Jericho, and there were many who shared Rahab's conviction, though they refused to obey it."* - Ellen G. White, [Patriarchs and Prophets](#), p. 492.



Image © Standard Publishing from GoodArt.com

Rahab was not saved because of her dishonesty but in spite of it. She believed in the true God, and she acted on that faith by protecting the spies that Joshua sent out. There were also conditions: she obeyed the messengers' direction to hang the scarlet cord in her window, which was reminiscent of the blood sprinkled around the doors of the Israelite homes at the time of their Passover deliverance (see [Exod. 12:21-24](#)). While far from perfect, Rahab's life is a model of faith that shows the reality of God's forgiveness and grace for everyone willing to step out in faith and to trust God with the results.

Read [James 2:26](#). How does this text summarize the relationship between faith and works?

Just as the body is only a corpse without the breath of life, so faith without works is dead. In addition, without real faith any "obedience" we might try to render would only amount to "dead works" ([Heb. 6:1,9:14](#)), which are meaningless in the sight of God.

JOHN the BAPTIST



Mark 6:20 KJV

for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a **just** man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

Matthew 21:32 KJV

For John came unto you

**in the way of
righteousness**, and
ye believed him not:
but the publicans and
the harlots believed
him: and ye, when ye
had seen it, repented
not afterward, that ye
might believe him.

Matthew 11:11 KJV

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are
born of women there hath not risen a
greater than John the Baptist:
notwithstanding he that is least in the

kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Why was John the Baptist righteous?

Ellen White, Desire of Ages, Ch 22

"The principle of the Baptist's own life of self-abnegation (selflessness) was the principle of the Messiah's kingdom."

The walk of his life, habitually..
demonstrated his faith in God and the certainty of the coming Messiah. He lived a life of self denial out of faith. John the Baptist was living this verse,

Romans 8:1 KJV

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The Desire of Ages, p 179-181

“The soul of the prophet, emptied of self, was filled with the light of the divine...

So with the followers of Christ. We can receive of heaven's light only as we are willing to be emptied of self. We cannot discern the character of God, or accept Christ by faith, unless we consent to the bringing into captivity of every thought to the obedience of Christ. To all who do this the Holy Spirit is given without measure.”

“AND WHAT
SHALL I
MORE SAY?”

Hebrews 11:32-40 KJV

[32] And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: [33] who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, [34] quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. [35] Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: [36] and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: [37] they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; [38] (of whom the world was not worthy:) they

wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. [39] And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: [40] God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

CHAPTER 4 | RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

In the parables of Jesus

Matthew 13:34-35 KJV

[34] All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: [35] That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world. (*Psalms 78.2*)



Parable of the true vine

John 15

So far in our presentations, we have referred to this analogy probably more than any of the other parables. And for good reason: it teaches a vital spiritual truth.

Jesus uses this example to show how **crucial** it is for the fruit to stay connected to the vine to live, survive and flourish. In the same way, our spiritual life, and our eternity, is completely dependent on maintaining and cultivating that

relationship with our Creator.

Our eternal destiny
depends on this
cultivation.

John 15 is not optional!

Of course there has to be the *moment* in our lives when we actually **connect to the vine**. *Justification*. In the garden, how does the tomato become attached to the vine?

Calvinists argue that it's basically the same way spiritually: you're either born connected or you aren't. This is the false doctrine of predestination. The problem with this theology is that it just isn't biblical,

- ≡ ○ The **freedom of choice** is seen from beginning to end in the Bible,

John 3:16-18 KJV

[16] For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. [17] For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. [18] He that **believeth** on him is not condemned: but he that **believeth** not is condemned already, because he hath **not believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Clearly salvation isn't based on "election" or a luck of the draw, but on choice and faith. Anyone can be saved!

- ≡ ○ Paul taught this parable as well, except his perspective was his own Israelite heritage,

Context:

Romans 11:1 KJV

I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Romans 11:16-24

The natural branches are not Israelites because of bloodline, but by faith alone,

Romans 9:6-8 KJV

[6] Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: [7] neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. [8] That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Galatians 3:26-29 KJV

[26] For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. [27] For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Only by **faith** do we become the Father's children, do we become part of the kingdom of God. Not by bloodline, or lineage (Zionists and dispensationalists), or good works (Muslims) or election (Calvinists, predestination) or secret knowledge (gnosticism).. **Faith alone!**

There are basically five major theologies on salvation,

- ✗ Salvation by election (Calvinists)
- ✗ Salvation for everyone (Universalists)
- ✗ Golden ticket salvation (Baptists)

✗ Salvation by works (Catholics)

✓ Salvation by choice and faith (Bible)

The Bible teaches there's only one way to be connected to the true Vine,

John 3:3 KJV

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 5:24 KJV

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV

[8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] not of works, lest any man should boast.

Genesis 15:6 KJV

And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Ellen White taught that this parable speaks directly to the process of sanctification,

“The parable of the vine and the branches was given by Christ in explanation of **genuine sanctification**, and by it the mystery of the Christian life is made known.”

Ellen G. White

Letters and Manuscripts — Volume 14
(1899) Ms 73

John 15:5 KJV

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that **abideth in me**, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me

ye can do nothing.

Abide is a verb and means "to stay in place" or to *remain*. And so by its very definition it is an ongoing process. Does this abiding found in John 15 sound optional to you?

Ellen White had these inspired words regarding **abiding in Christ**,

We Abide in Christ the Living Vine

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. John 15:1.

Those who would follow Christ, must believe in Him; they must open the heart to receive Him as an abiding guest. They must abide in Christ, as the branch abides in the living vine. There is a vital union formed between the parent stock and the branch, and the same fruit appears upon the branch that is seen upon the tree. Thus the Lord will work through the human agent who unites himself to Jesus Christ. Those who have an abiding trust in Christ, will, like Enoch, have a sense of the abiding presence of God. Why is it that there are so many who feel in uncertainty, who feel that they are orphans?—It is because they do not cultivate faith in the precious assurance that the Lord Jesus is their sin-bearer. It was in behalf of those who had transgressed the law, that Jesus took upon Him human nature, and became like unto us, in order that we might have everlasting peace and assurance. We have an advocate in the heavens, and whosoever accepts Him as his personal Saviour is not left an orphan to bear the curse of his own sins.

We must daily cultivate faith, daily contemplate Him who has undertaken our case, who is a merciful and faithful high priest; "for in that he himself hath suffered being tempted [not in a few things, but in all points like as we are], he is able to succour them that are tempted." "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities." Even now, in heaven, He is afflicted with our afflictions; and as a living Saviour, as an interested Advocate, He is making intercession for us.

We should daily exercise faith; and that faith should daily increase as it is exercised, as we realize that He has not only redeemed us, but has loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests unto God and the Father.¹⁶*The Youth's Instructor, October 18, 1894.*

Paul puts it this way,

Romans 8:10 KJV

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

How does Jesus "live in us"?

1 Corinthians 6.19, Romans 8.9-11

The third Person of the Godhead. EGW writes in **Gospel Workers**, p 284-286

When he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. John 16:8.

Christ promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs as much to us as to the first disciples. But like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who profess to believe and claim the Lord's promises; they talk about Christ and the Holy Spirit; yet they receive no benefit, because they do not **surrender** their souls to the guidance and control of divine agencies.

We cannot use the Holy Spirit; the Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit, God works in His people "to will and to do of his good pleasure" (**Philippians 2:13**). But many will not **submit to be led**. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to

the capacity to receive.

The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. Those only who are thus taught of God, those only who possess the inward working of the Spirit, and in whose life the Christ-life is manifested, can stand as true representatives of the Saviour.

James 4:7 KJV

Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Desire of Ages, p 671

"Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the third person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power."

Read Philippians 4:3 & 1 John 3:6...

Satan has *no power* to cause you to sin if you are connected to and depending on Christ. Apart from Him, you are an easy target. It's always up to you and you alone if you stay connected or not! *Job is a*

prime example of this abiding truth.

Name some of the real life, practical ways that we "daily cultivate faith"

≡ ○

≡ ○

≡ ○



Parable of the Sower
Matthew 13

Parable: verses 1-9

Reason for parables: verses 10-13

Parable explanation: verses 18-23

Isaiah 61:11 KJV

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,
and as the garden causeth the things that
are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord
GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring forth before all the nations.



Matthew 13

Parable of the Sower

Christ's Object Lessons

CHAPTER 2 "The Sower Went Forth to Sow"

<https://www.ellenwhite.info/books/ellen-g-white-book-christs-object-lessons-col-02.htm>



Parable of the ten virgins

Matthew 25

Isaiah 61:10-11 KJV

[10] I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. [11] For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise

to spring forth before all the nations.

- ≡ ○ All are professed believers, like Cain and Able
- ≡ ○ All are asleep when the Bridegroom tarries, therefore this parable can't represent the second coming, because God's people are not found sleeping at the second advent.
- ≡ ○ And, it's clearly a tarrying time.
- ≡ ○ It certainly *leads* to the second coming, because the marriage itself is the moment we are translated at the resurrection and unite with Christ in person. See 1 Cor 15:51-53, 1 Thess 4:13-18
- ≡ ○ In the Great Controversy, chapter 22, Ellen White saw this parable as a type, fulfilled by the 1844 Advent movement.
- ≡ ○ The final fulfillment is at the close of human probation, that comes "as a thief in the night" 1 Thess 5:2, Rev 16:15, Matt 24:43, referred to as the

"day of the Lord"

Christ's Object Lessons

Chapter 29: "To Meet the Bridegroom"
based on Matt. 25:1-13

"It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied.

The ten virgins are watching in the evening of this earth's history. All claim to be Christians. All have a call, a name, a lamp, and all profess to be doing God's service. All apparently wait for Christ's appearing. But five are unready. Five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall."

Human probation closes quietly. The following is from our "End Time Events" presentation,

When probation closes, it's a sunny day ☀️ meaning, life is going on as usual. This doesn't mean that there aren't frightening and monumental events happening on earth, there will be. But when the work of judgment and mediation in heaven is completed, when the ark door is finally closed and sealed forever, when probation closes for all alive on earth.. Jesus our High Priest **stands up**. He stands up for His people! And "it is done" See Daniel 12.1. No one on earth knows it happened,

"When the irrevocable
decision of the sanctuary
has been pronounced and the
destiny of the world has
been forever fixed, the
inhabitants of the earth
will know it not."

What is the Lord's main point in this parable?

NOW is the time to allow God to prepare you, through complete surrender.

Now is the time to receive Christ's righteousness by faith each moment.

Now is the time to be sealed with the Father's name forever.



Parable of the Pharisee and publican
Luke 18

This is such an "in your face".. directly to the point parable that teaches one thing,

It shows in real life the difference between man made righteousness and genuine righteousness.

One leads to pride and presumption.
The other to humility and complete trust.

The Signs of the Times

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October 21, 1897

The Pharisee and the Publican

*And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." This parable was spoken to show the need of true humility. {[ST October 21, 1897, par. 1](#)}

If we don't have the theology straight on righteousness by faith, we could easily become this proud Pharisee, and be among those Jesus said "I never knew you" Matt 7:21-23

Genuine obedience **comes from** Christ's righteousness. An apple tree 🍏 produces apples because **it is** an apple tree, not to become one. In the same way, a Christian lives good works and continual obedience because **he is** a Christian, not to become one. In order to do this, we have to stay connected to the true Vine. This is where the war is for us. **Read Romans 7-8** 📖



Parable of the wedding feast

Matthew 22

Psalm 23:5-6 KJV

[5] Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. [6] Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The kingdom of heaven is like..

Like a diamond with hundreds of subtle sides, all combine to make it beautiful and complicated and mysterious and rare and valuable... Jesus came to *reveal* the kingdom of heaven.

In this particular parable Jesus is laser focused on the **people** in the kingdom,

1 Peter 2:9 KJV

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

God's people the Church is referred to as a bride,

2Cor 11.2, Rev 21.2, Jn 3.29, Is 54.5

Revelation 12:1 KJV

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun,

and the moon under her feet, and upon
her head a crown of twelve stars

Vs 1-3

The King is God the Father

The Son is Jesus

The servants are God's faithful people

Would not come

Maybe the saddest three words in the Bible. This is specifically referring to the nation of Israel (vs 3) but ultimately to everyone who won't respond to God's invitation (vs 9-10) Jn 3.16 "who so ever"

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

Vs 4-6

The servants sent are referring specifically to the prophets of the old testament, ending with John the Baptist, Matt 3.1-2, And finally Jesus,

Matthew 27:22 KJV

Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

Vs 7

After the 490 year prophecy of Daniel 9 ended, and after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, **those sent** refers to the gospel going to the gentiles. And the faithful **remnant** who preach the Gospel to the lost from that point until the end of earth's history,

Matthew 21:43 KJV

Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Until the final generation,

Early Writings, Ch 67 The Loud Cry

"The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message."

"Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound everywhere, "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." (Rev 18:4) The glory of God rested upon the patient, waiting saints, and they fearlessly gave the last solemn warning, proclaiming the fall of Babylon and calling upon God's people to come out of her that they might escape her fearful doom."



These servants are God's end time **remnant people** making the final call to come out of error and into the truth. "Come out of Babylon into the Remnant church" Join God's commandment keeping people, and refuse the mark of the beast. Come to the wedding feast!

But there is something required,

Vs 11

The King inspected the guests that had gathered and accepted the invitation. He **investigated** them? The pre-advent, investigative judgment in view here!

The Robe

Is 61.10-11, Job 29.14, Eph 6.14, Rev 19.8

Ellen White develops this even further,

Chapter 24—Without a Wedding Garment

This chapter is based on [Matthew 22:1-14](#).

The parable of the wedding garment opens before us a lesson of the highest consequence. By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding. {COL 307.1}

The **robe** represents the righteousness of Christ lived out in your life. It's who you are, your final character, and who God intended for you to be all along.

“This robe, woven
in the loom of
heaven, has in it
not one thread of
human devising.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV

[8] For by grace are ye saved through
faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the
gift of God: [9] not of works, lest any man
should boast.

Titus 3:4-7

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Read Revelation 14:4 !