

GRACE E - BOOK

THE FOUNDATION
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

CREFLO DOLLAR



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The Foundation of Righteousness
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LESSON 1

HOW TO BE FREE FROM SIN CONSCIOUSNESS

Missing the mark, or sinning, is an inevitable part of life. Even the most disciplined Believer will have moments when he or she falls short of God's instruction for his or her life. Being a Christian does not mean living a perfect life. In fact, it is in our weakness that God is made strong and gets the glory for our victory. But in the midst of life's tests and trials, mishaps and moments of missing it, one thing we are not to do is allow guilt and condemnation to overtake us. In fact, guilt, shame, and condemnation have no place in the life of a Believer who has been righteous in God's eyes. Becoming confident in your right-standing with God is the key to maintaining freedom from sin consciousness.

So many Believers live miserable lives of guilt and condemnation. They have an extremely difficult time accepting God's eternal forgiveness through Christ. They can't forgive themselves for their mistakes and, therefore, find it difficult to forgive others. They have what is called sin consciousness, whereby they constantly remind themselves of their wrongdoing. Furthermore, they live with a performance-based mentality, in which they believe that their good deeds can make them right with God. The truth is that in order to forgive ourselves and receive God's

forgiveness, we have to first believe that Jesus Christ has already made us right with God. Only then will we be free to live a life of grace instead of a life with sin consciousness.

Receive Christ, Receive Righteousness

The reason why it is so important to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is because only He can purify you from a guilty (evil) conscience. By believing in Him with your whole heart, this is accomplished. What is an evil conscience? It is basically a mindset that is focused on one's own faultiness or tendency to do the wrong thing. It is sin consciousness. People who have a sin consciousness feel perpetually guilty for some reason or another. When they miss the mark, they may experience deep condemnation for their sin, and they fear God's wrath and judgement over their lives. They can never really receive forgiveness because they believe that God is mad at them every time they mess up. Having a sin consciousness is pure torment.

One of the things that promotes a sin consciousness is the belief that we must perform well enough for God to accept us. A law-based, performance-based mindset is fostered by attempting to do dead works, which are the works that we do depending entirely on human ability instead of trusting Jesus' ability and His finished works. In other words, dead works are an attempt to earn grace or right standing with God. The problem is that nothing we do in our own ability will ever qualify us for righteousness. There is only one

person who accomplished this task—Jesus. This is what makes Christianity such a unique relationship. Only Jesus has the ability to recreate a man’s spirit and purge his nature of sin. Jesus is alive and well, and He is forever making intercession for us before the Father. Through Jesus, we can live free from the guilt, shame, and condemnation of sin.

The precious blood of Jesus is what cleanses the mind of sin consciousness and the “dead works” mentality. To receive this free gift of righteousness, there has to be a true heart belief indicating that we have been made righteous through Jesus Christ, not our works.

Many Believers don’t realize that their faith is hindered when they have sin consciousness. It is impossible to believe God loves you or that He wants to bless you when you are laden with guilt. First Timothy 4:1, 2 says, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” A person has a seared conscience when he or she is progressively focused on his or her sins. This concept is rooted in depending on our own ability instead of God’s ability. When this happens, we fail and then feel condemned because we didn’t measure up.

On the other hand, a grace-based life is not an inactive life but a life led by the Holy Spirit. Living the life of grace requires belief-effort, not self-effort. Belief requires us to practically demonstrate our faith in God and His Word. This

is the action we are to take. However, this action is not a sense of striving to make God accept us.

Guilt is a spiritual force that has the potential to really eat away at a person's sense of worth and acceptance from God. It causes a person to become angry, bitter, obsessed with his or her past mistakes, and subject to blaming others for his or her actions. The Law of Moses was given to show people their sinfulness and expose their guilt, which is why we cannot live under the Law any longer.

Guilt also leads to condemnation. People who feel condemned all their lives believe they are worthless. Ultimately, Satan will jump on the bandwagon and help them feel even more condemned and guilty. He is the accuser of the brethren and will not miss any opportunity to point an accusatory finger at us. This can lead a person into deep depression or even suicide, or it can cause the individual to become even more rebellious, which can be deadly.

Getting Free

Freedom from sin consciousness should be the objective of every Believer. While we are actually free from sin's dominion, many times it takes time to become healed from a seared conscience. The first step to living a life of grace is to believe that we are forgiven and to forgive ourselves. We must forgive ourselves, even if we don't think we deserve forgiveness. This is so important because if we don't forgive ourselves we won't forgive others. And when we feel we

don't deserve forgiveness, our actions will be driven by our guilt. The problem is that doing the "right" things to try to make ourselves worthy of forgiveness never resolves a guilty conscience. Jesus is the only cure for a conscience that is riddled with guilt and condemnation.

Understanding the new covenant and your position as a Believer under the dispensation of grace is critical. The power of sin is dead without the Law. Romans 7:6-8 expounds on this:

"But now we have been released from the Law and its penalty, having died [through Christ] to that by which we were held captive, so that we serve [God] in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter [of the Law]. What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, if it had not been for the Law, I would not have recognized sin. For I would not have known [for example] about coveting [what belongs to another, and would have had no sense of guilt] if the Law had not [repeatedly] said, 'You shall not covet.' But sin, finding an opportunity through the commandment [to express itself] produced in me every kind of coveting and selfish desire. For without the Law sin is dead [the recognition of sin is inactive]" (*Amplified Bible*).

Because the Law was given to bring awareness to sin and man's need for a Savior, when you try to live under the Law it will actually keep sin alive in you. This is not God's plan

for those who are born again. Jesus has set us free from the Law and, as Believers, we now live under the covenant of grace. At one time it was all about doing good so He would release His blessing, but now it is all about what *Jesus* has done. Under grace, sin has no dominion over us.

Living free from sin, guilt, and condemnation is the distinguishing mark of having a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. Through Him, we have been set free from the bondage of a sin consciousness. Receiving your righteousness by faith is the key to walking in the liberty that Jesus has made available to you.

LESSON 2

UNDERSTANDING THE FOUNDATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

When it comes to building something of substance, the foundation on which it is built is critical. Think about a house. A house that is able to withstand all kinds of environments must be built on a strong foundation. Its structure must go deep and its framework must be able to stand up to pressure of different kinds. Just like that house that must be built on a strong foundation, so must our spiritual lives. As Believers, the first foundation we must understand is the foundation of righteousness. When we begin to understand how righteousness operates in our lives, multiple blessings will come our way. But this doesn't happen automatically. As free moral agents, we are the ones who decide for ourselves whether or not to accept all that God has made available to us. We can either choose self-righteousness or God's righteousness. By understanding the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, we can gain a strong understanding of our right-standing with God.

First things first: Christ is our foundation and the One Who gives us all good gifts. Everything good comes from Him! When we are in Christ, we possess His wisdom. We also possess His righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

First Corinthians 1:30, 31 says, “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption: That according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” All of these spiritual attributes are not the result of anything good that we have done, but they belong to us strictly because of what He has done. Since we are in Him, everything that He possesses belongs to us.

Just to understand how important foundations are, Psalm 11:3 says that if the foundations of something are destroyed, what can the righteous do? Spiritually speaking, if we let religion and the world’s philosophies destroy our foundation of righteousness, our whole spiritual house will collapse. God’s grace was given to us so that we could be wise builders. Our spiritual houses are built progressively as one person lays a foundation and another builds. When it is all said and done, there is no better foundation to build your life on than Christ. When we do this, we will be truly secure and unshakeable when life’s challenges show up. We should never be ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God bringing salvation for everyone who believes. The Gospel is the Good News and the grace of Christ.

On Solid Ground

The only foundation upon which we can build our lives is Jesus Christ and His righteousness. Spiritually, we must come to a place of maturity, where we know this without a

shadow of a doubt. He is the Rock under our feet, and His grace is all we need.

Even the disciples struggled with the true identity of Jesus and what He truly meant in their lives. Though they had walked with Him during His earthly ministry, they still didn't have a full revelation. Jesus asked them once who they thought He was, and Peter answered correctly because He had received a direct revelation from the Father in heaven:

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:13-18).

There are so many nuggets of revelation in this passage of Scripture. Jesus presented His very own disciples with questions that tested their knowledge of who He really was. None of them could answer except Peter, who had received a direct revelation about Jesus from the Father. At that point, Jesus called him Peter, which means “rocky,” and declared that the rock of revelation of who Jesus is would

be the foundation upon which the body of Christ is built. In addition, there is no force in hell that can prevail against it.

What makes a Believer completely impenetrable by the enemy? Knowing who Jesus is and knowing that He is the foundation upon which everything in the Believer's life is built. You see, when you know who Jesus is, it will change your entire perspective and focus. The Christ, the anointed One and His anointing, is the One who empowers you to live a victorious life. The Son of the living God, living in you, will completely revolutionize how you view yourself and what you are capable of. The Son of Love Himself will empower you to love others unconditionally, forgive, and live a life of faith. A Believer who is completely immersed in a revelation of who Jesus is, is an unstoppable force!

Jesus brings us the gift of righteousness and abundant grace, and this is what empowers us to reign in life. Romans 5:17 says, "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." The power to reign is made possible through His Word, which makes us the righteousness of God.

Since righteousness is the foundation of a successful Christian life, what does it mean to be the righteousness of God? First, righteousness was imparted into your born-again spirit the day you made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life. It is a spiritual force and a spiritual condition that is inherent to every Believer, regardless of your outward behavior. That definitely

messes with the religious mindset that most Christians have been holding on to, but it is the truth. Nothing changes your status of being righteous when you are in Christ. The issue is renewing your mind so that your thinking can change to line up with your new nature. When you get saved, your spirit is born again, but your mind, will, and emotions are not. Each Believer must be proactive in the mind renewal process by reading and meditating on the Word of God so that they can gain a new perspective on who they are, now that they are born again. This is a lifelong process that must be engaged in, not a one-time thing.

As the righteousness of God, you have the right to come boldly before the throne of the Father without a sense of guilt or condemnation. This means that even when you miss the mark you can continue to come to God without reservation. You always have a listening ear with the Father because you are a part of His family through Jesus Christ. You do not have to walk in shame, fear, guilt, or condemnation for your past mistakes and sins. This is the blood-bought right of every Christian.

To be made righteous means you are in right-standing with God through no action of your own. Trying to do good works to achieve this spiritual state is pointless and futile. Instead of striving to be made right with God in your own ability, simply receive your new nature as one of Jesus' finished works. When you sin or miss the mark, lean into your righteousness by faith, having no doubt that God sees you just like He sees Jesus. You are clothed in righteousness.

The enemy hinders Believers who don't know who they are in Christ by plaguing them with guilt, shame, and condemnation. If you find yourself being overcome by these things, it is an indication that you need to develop in this revelation. Hebrews 5:12, 13 says,

“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

So many Believers need to be re-taught the basic foundational principles of Christianity, including righteousness. Spiritually speaking, a person is a babe in Christ if he or she is unskillful in the Word of righteousness. This Word of righteousness brings spiritual maturity into the lives of Believers, which is why it is so important to grasp it and walk in it.

Every day we will be faced with opportunities to cower in the face of guilt, shame, and condemnation, but it is our responsibility to build ourselves up in the revelation of who Jesus is and what He has done for us. The foundation of righteousness gives us bold access to the Father and all that is promised in the Word of God. When your spiritual life is built on the foundation of the righteousness of God,

none of your mistakes or past sins can trip you up or hinder you from moving forward in your relationship with God. Embrace your new nature today and walk in the power that is rightfully yours!

LESSON 3

RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

A solid foundation in knowing who you are in Christ and your right standing with the Father is vital to a healthy Christian life. When you don't know who you are in Him, you will be subject to every attack of the enemy to get you in a place of guilt and condemnation. When this happens, you are not able to exercise your faith in God's love or promises to you, and you will definitely not be able to walk in the power that God has given you to do the works that Jesus did. God has given every Believer divine authority, and we need to know what we are capable of. But it starts with a revelation of our righteousness. We are the righteousness of God! And under His grace, our power lies not in what we can do, but in what Jesus has already done. This grace is the opposite of what the Old Testament focused on, which was self-righteousness based on works. Because of Jesus, blessings have been made available, and we need only to receive them by faith.

Maturing spiritually is vital because it provides new and deeper insight into what Jesus has given us. Many Believers need to be retaught the foundational principles of righteousness because not understanding this vital subject will greatly hinder their ability to walk in their authority. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "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.” A basic overview of righteousness is this: Jesus became sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him.

On our own, we could never perform enough righteous deeds to achieve this status. So many Believers think that a holy lifestyle is what makes us holy, but the truth is that our holiness is only achieved through Jesus, and it is manifested through our lifestyle. We act righteous because of who we inherently are, not because we are trying to achieve righteousness.

There are three definitions of righteousness, and they include right-standing before God, standing before Him as if we have never sinned, and standing before Him without guilt, shame, inferiority, or fear. Let’s explore each of them further.

Right-standing before God is essentially being able to stand before God in the same spiritual state as Jesus Himself! That may blow some minds, but it is the absolute truth for someone who is born again. The reason is because when you receive Christ, something supernatural happens. You are disconnected from Satan spiritually, and connected to the Father. Your spirit is reborn, or recreated and infused with eternal life. You are a new species of being spiritually, that has never existed before. From a spiritual standpoint, you look just like Jesus! However, your mind, will, and emotions are not recreated. Therefore, they must be renewed daily by meditating on the Word of God so that your thinking

aligns with your new nature. But spiritually, you are a clone of Jesus Christ, and because of that, the Father sees you as such. What a powerful revelation!

Second, righteousness means the ability to stand before God as if you have never sinned. To an unrenewed mind, this concept is almost unfathomable. How can someone who has just sinned stand before God as if it never happened, when it actually did happen? The answer is simple: Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, He bore the sins of mankind and took the full penalty for sin. He received in His body and spirit the full burden of sin and its consequences. Not only that, but He died and went to hell, where His spirit suffered the full penalty as well. He experienced every ounce of the wrath of God; He took it all. When you accept Him as your Lord and Savior, you receive the benefits of His redemptive work. Because of what He suffered, you no longer have to suffer. Because of His sacrifice, you no longer have to look forward to an eternity in hell. Because He took on the sins of mankind in full, you can stand before the Father as if you have never sinned. Your slate is wiped clean, and you have access to the continual flow of His cleansing blood, which covers and cleanses you. No matter what you did yesterday, last night, or an hour ago, if you are a Believer, you are cleansed of sin, and the sin nature is eradicated from your spirit. This should boost your confidence in your position with God.

Finally, righteousness means you are able to stand before

God without a sense of fear, guilt, inferiority, or shame. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus! Under the Law, the people lived in constant fear of God and His wrath. The priests were the only ones who could even offer sacrifices to God. No one could have an intimate relationship with the Father or come into His presence because they still had the sin nature residing in them. Guilt, shame, and condemnation were the order of the day. But not any more. If you are in Christ, you have a new nature and the liberty to commune with God, regardless of your sins or past mistakes. You are absolutely free from guilt and shame. You don't have to fear God and His wrath, and you don't have to run from Him because of anything you have done. Jesus did not just cover up our sins, like the blood of animals was used to do under the old covenant. According to John 1:29, He completely took our sins away. Your sins have been completely blotted out, so there is no need to have guilt for something you did in the past. Righteousness through Christ Jesus entitles you to full access to God without any sense of inferiority.

No More Self-Effort

Attempting to become righteous through self-effort is futile and goes against everything that Jesus did. This is a foundational principle of righteousness that has to be embraced, and our minds have to be renewed to it. Religion is so deceptive because it tells you that you have to do more and be more for God to accept you, but then it condemns you

when you fail to live up to those expectations. It is time to get rid of religion and get into a revelation of your relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Not even Abraham was made righteous through his own work. He was made righteous strictly through His faith in God. This is a wonderful example of the grace of God in play. Because of our righteousness, God does not count sin against us.

Romans 4:1-8 says,

“What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? 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. Even as David also described the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.”

We are counted as righteous when we believe in Jesus. His blood makes it possible for us to access the benefits of righteousness and right-standing with the Father. Even before the foundation of the world, God chose us to be in Him—that

we should be holy and without blame before Him. Jesus died so that we could be presented blameless before the Father. We are perfected not by our own merits but through Jesus.

So many Believers live a Law-based life, even though they are no longer under the Law. As a result, they carry and maintain sin consciousness in their lives. Living under the Law as a new covenant Believer is counterproductive to everything Jesus accomplished for you. Romans 3:19-22 says, “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 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.”

This scripture is vital for every new covenant person to get hold of. The Law points out everything we have done wrong, and it highlights our guilt, which is why continuing to live a legalistic life as a Believer is not what God wants for us. The Law was implemented to let mankind know that he was inherently sinful and that there was a need for something outside of himself to achieve righteousness. Trying to achieve righteousness through good works will not work because the Law simply brings more awareness to sin and fosters sin consciousness.

Faith in Jesus alone is what makes us the righteousness of God, and it is the cornerstone for a victorious Christian life. There is no other foundation upon which we can build our faith. Once you believe and receive that you are righteous,

not because of anything you have done but because of what Jesus has done, the sky is the limit. Spend time meditating on the Word of God and renewing your mind in this area so that you can maximize your position with the Father and do great exploits on the earth.

LESSON 4

THE EFFECTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

It is rare to have a relationship that does not affect you in some type of way. Everyone we come in contact with has the potential to leave a mark on our lives. And likewise, as Believers, we should leave the fragrance of Jesus everywhere we go. We are called to affect and have an effect on others and the world around us. Similarly, having a relationship with Jesus and being in Him produces results in our lives, and has an effect on us. Being in right standing with God brings with it many benefits, and has its own effects in our lives. Understanding how we are affected by righteousness builds on the foundation of righteousness upon which our Christian lives are built.

When you are born again, God sees you in right standing with Him because of what Jesus did. Therefore, we should not allow our mistakes, failures, or sins to get us to abandon what Jesus has done for us. While our sins can unravel our lives, they cannot unravel our righteousness. Everything we do has consequences in this natural realm, good or bad, but when it comes to our standing with God, nothing we do can undo the redemptive work of salvation that has changed the condition of our spirits. Satan will always attack the Believer's identity in Christ whenever we do something wrong. He wants us to

believe that we are no longer right with God; however, we must realize that there is nothing we can do to erase what Jesus has done in our lives. It is a finished work that will carry us into eternity and beyond.

Understanding righteousness means understanding how it came to be that we needed to be made righteous. First things first, our actions are not what makes us sinners. We were born sinners because of Adam's disobedience to God in the Garden of Eden. When he bowed his knee to Satan and turned his authority over to the devil, something serious happened. A man who was initially connected to God spiritually and plugged into the power source of eternal life, love, and light, immediately disconnected from that source and became connected to eternal death, fear, and darkness. His nature was instantly changed into one of sin. It is the meaning of "fallen man." That sinful nature became the spiritual condition of every human being born into the earth. It was all because of Adam's sin that we are born into sin. Therefore, there is nothing that we did to become sinners, all we had to do was be born.

Because of the inherent sin nature of every human being, without Christ, a person has no hope for eternal life. This is why Jesus is the only way to the Father and the only way to achieve right standing with God. The issue isn't the outward actions that a person does but the *nature* that he or she possesses. If the spiritual nature of a human being is not recreated in the image of Jesus Christ, he or she will be

forever separated from God. Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the only way to achieve reconnection with God and eternal life. It is only through Him that we are made spiritually right with the Father.

Once you receive Jesus as your Lord and personal Savior, your mistakes, failures, and sins will not alter the spiritual state of righteousness that you now possess in Him. We are righteous because of our faith in Him alone (1 John 2:1). Under the Law, people had to work for righteousness by trying to keep every aspect of the Law, and they failed miserably. There are still people today who try to live this way, but being a Believer means abandoning a Law-based way of life.

When you are born again, God sees you as holy and blameless. This may be a hard truth to accept, but the Word boldly declares it. Ephesians 1:4 says, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." This scripture lets us know that we were chosen by Him for the purpose of being holy and blameless before God. How can a person be blameless when they have made a multitude of mistakes, and even sin as a Christian? The answer is the righteousness of God. Through His righteousness, we are blameless in the eyes of the Father. Colossians 1:22 also echoes this point: "In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight." As difficult as it may be to accept with your natural mind, you are without blame and without reproof in the sight of God!

One of the amazing effects of righteousness in the life of a Believer is that he or she has a new identity. We are new creatures in Christ. Second Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” So many Christians have not renewed their minds to this new identity, but it is essential to walking in a revelation of righteousness. Spiritually speaking, you are a species of being that has never existed before! You are *not* who you used to be, and you are no longer a sinner. Referring to yourself as such is an indictment against the work that Jesus has done in you. Christians should never call themselves sinners saved by grace; we are saints. The sin nature has been abolished and replaced with a completely new nature.

Romans 5:17 says that we reign in life. This is not the lifestyle of a sinner who is under the dominion of sin and its effects. Those who are in Christ are victorious over the devil and have the power to overcome every negative circumstance that they face in life. We have an abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness that has been given to us. Reigning in life is yet another effect of righteousness working in our lives.

In addition to reigning in life, as the righteousness of God, we also enjoy the benefit of a prayer life that gets results. James 5:16 says, “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” Prayer

power is vital to the Christian life, and we are able to see our prayers move mountains when we know we are righteous. We can boldly come to God with our prayers, petitions, and requests, knowing that He hears us and answers.

One of the reasons why sin is so dangerous to play with is because it undermines your confidence in God and your position with Him. If having a revelation of your righteousness is the foundation for your success as a Believer, then it makes sense why the enemy will constantly work overtime to entice you to give in to his suggestions. He knows that if you sin it will not unravel your right standing with God, but it will have a negative effect on your life on this earth. One of the negative effects of sin is that it causes you to question whether God really loves you or hears you. This will effect everything from your prayer life to your faith in the Word. You will not have confidence that you still have a right to the blessing of God. This is why continual meditation on the Word of God and the reality of righteousness is so important.

Another effect of righteousness is that it will change the way you respond to the enticements of the devil. When you really get hold of your identity as the righteousness of God, you will begin to reject things that don't line up with who you really are. You are no longer a sinner, so the things you used to do before coming to the knowledge of Christ will not be as appealing, as you continue to renew your mind. This is not to say that you will not continually grow in areas that require you to overcome, but ultimately the goal of every

Believer should be to be so identified with his or her identity in Christ that the things that represent his or her old nature do not come naturally anymore. A righteousness-consciousness will change the way you see and respond to the suggestions of the devil, and will keep you in a position of obedience to God and His Word.

Just like any new covenant subject, righteousness is one that cannot be neglected in your meditation time. Spend a significant amount of time chewing on the scriptures that deal with your new identity in Christ. Make them your focus. The more you study and meditate on these truths, the more real they will become to you. And you will find yourself walking in them more and more. Righteousness is the blood-bought ability to stand in the presence of God without fear or shame. You are a new creature in Christ, and Jesus made it possible to live from a position of righteousness and exercise His authority over the enemy in every area of your life. Righteousness isn't something you do; it is who you are!