

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org

Revelation that Started a Reformation

One day, I came to an understanding that changed how I approached God in prayer. It all came down to learning what gave me the right to ask God for help. My early understanding of prayer was that I was asking God for a favor, for Him to please notice my trouble and to be merciful in my prayer request. My lack of knowledge fed this “works” mentality in my mind for many years.

I was preaching in Mexico, and I recall an elderly lady coming up for prayer. She fell to her knees and began to weep in prayer, asking God to help her. It was clear that she was desperate and had found hope in the service that God might see her struggles and help. As she was weeping, I could hear her praying to God in Spanish, and although I didn’t understand a word she was saying, I could recognize her tone. It reminded me of the manner that I used in my past prayers to God, a form of begging and timidity in prayer. I stood her up, and with the help of an interpreter, I encouraged her that she was not a beggar and had every right to ask God for help.

The best definition I’ve heard for the word righteousness is that it is what gives us the right to come to God as a child. Many of us didn’t know this truth initially, so we built our relationship with God, constantly trying to measure up and earn our right to have His love.

I call it the treadmill of works where you do good things in the name of God, and then you pray, hoping that you have earned enough righteousness to have the right for an answer from God. When nothing happens, the devil whispers in your ear that you need to do more to get God’s attention. You then work harder and give more and more, always striving for the right to be heard but never accomplishing enough.

What an amazing revelation to learn that you cannot earn this righteousness, but it is truly a gift from God. It was this struggle that birthed the Protestant Reformation through Martin Luther. He was a monk in the fifteenth century who looked at God’s righteousness as incredibly holy and pure, and the notion that we as humans could possibly achieve that was absurd to him. Yet, in the church, they were selling indulgences to obtain righteousness with their money. The church at the time would say if you gave money as penance for your sin, then you would be right with God. Martin Luther held the righteousness of God in such high regard that he felt it was impossible to obtain it by any human means.

It says in Habakkuk 2:4, “*Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.*” This verse expresses the differences between understanding righteousness as earned versus being received. The “proud” represents those who attempt to earn right standing with God in their own ability and works. What an impossible notion to think of oneself as having the capabilities to achieve the righteousness of God Himself. It was the revelation of “The just shall live by faith” that turned Luther into a revolutionist.

He began to see God's plan within the Word. God was never asking man to strive to be as righteous as God in heaven, but instead, God was offering redemption by making man the righteousness of God. This is the true revelation of salvation that Apostle Paul shared in Romans 1:17, *"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

This is where we stand in our prayer requests to God! From a position of righteousness and not from a place of begging. I have a right to believe because I have been made His child by faith in Jesus. It means that righteousness can never be earned; it must be received by faith. My righteousness to live by does not come from me but from my Heavenly Father. How powerful is this to know? You became the very righteousness of God by faith in Jesus as your savior. You can never gain more of it through good choices, and it doesn't diminish because of your struggles.

Righteousness is now your very nature the moment you became born again. This means on a good day full of good works, fasting, and prayer, you are no more righteous than on a slow day of struggle and laziness. His nature in you has made you righteous, and that is it. Read with me Philippians 3:8-9, *"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;"*

I used to think I had a little Jesus living in me, with a little kitchen and bedroom in my heart. However, it is not the person of Jesus that I received but the nature that came from Him. It can be difficult for the carnal mind to comprehend this revelation that started a revolution. You are as righteous as Jesus because you have His nature in you. You were born again with the exact nature as Jesus Christ, as it says in Galatians 4:6-7, *"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."*

I always say that God gave us the gift of righteousness, and our gift back to Him should be our holiness. As a born-again child of God, you will never be more righteous than you are today. Let's continue to press into Him and allow that righteousness to overtake our lives. There are wonderful things ahead.

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org