

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

Lesson 6: Walk According to the Spirit

Power

This series concerns genuine life transformation for the believer. It is titled "The Righteousness of God" because that is the goal of the transformation process, i.e., that believers would increasingly reflect the righteousness of God in their lives. What we saw in Lesson 5 is that Law keeping or any other system that relies solely on rules keeping will neither save nor transform. Paul wrote: "We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit." (2 Cor. 3:18) Real transformation is a process that rests in the transformative power of the Spirit of God. This is why Paul elsewhere wrote that we should "walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." (Gal. 5:16) Recalling that apart from God our **hearts** are darkened (Rom. 1:21) and our **minds** corrupt (Rom. 1:28), this lesson is intended to show that transformation occurs when our hearts and minds are oriented to the things of the Holy Spirit, and especially the Word of God.

1. What the Law Could Not Do, God Did (Rom. 8:3-4):

Paul wrote that the Law could not make us righteous, but God did what the Law could not do by sending his Son to deal with our sin. But this was done with a further purpose — that the righteousness of the Law would be fulfilled in Christians that walk / live according to the Spirit and do not walk / live according to the flesh.

— KEY ISSUE: What does it mean to walk according to the Spirit?

2. Our Worldview / Mindset / Outlook Matters (8:5-10):

How we live reflects how we think. What Paul impressed on his readers in Romans 8:5-6 was a contrast between those whose thinking or outlook is shaped by the things of the Spirit and those whose thinking or outlook is shaped by the things of the flesh. The **flesh oriented outlook / mindset** is "death," meaning this Christian engages in those things God despises and does not experience the life and power of God in their daily walk. The **Spirit oriented outlook / mindset** is "life and peace," meaning this Christian engages in those things that glorify God and experiences life and intimacy with God in their daily walk. While Christians are not "in the flesh" (Rom. 8:9) they are capable of living / walking according to the flesh and experiencing death rather than life and peace.

— KEY ISSUE: How do we develop a **Spirit oriented outlook / mindset?**

— We need our attention focused on the things of God (Colossians 3:1-3; Philippians 4:8)

— We need to yield to the influence / control / filling by **the Spirit** working in us as we plant the Word of God in our hearts. COMPARE the following parallel passages: Colossians 3:16-4:6 and Ephesians 5:18-6:9

— Study Psalm 1 and take it to heart

3. Is the Christian Walk More than Knowing the Facts?:

Knowing the truth is no guarantee that you will experience it. It is not just facts, but an entirely new **Spirit oriented outlook / mindset / worldview**. A great passage that illustrates this in nuts and bolts terms is Hebrews 11. Often people say Hebrews 11:1 **defines faith**, but in reality this passage shows us what faith looks like in the life of a Christian who not only knows and believes God's Word, but reorients their life around a **Spirit oriented outlook / mindset / worldview**. Consider Abraham's example.