

Righteousness under the Old Testament:

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish, **Psalm 1:6**.

And he (*Abraham*), believed in the LORD; and He counted it to him for righteousness, **Genesis 15:6**.

(a certain priest named Zacharias, and his wife) were both righteous before God, walking in the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless, **Luke 1:6**.

He (*the LORD*), shall judge the world in righteousness, He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness, **Psalm 9:8**

Under the Old Testament, righteousness was based on one's belief and works unto God.

Righteousness, under the New Covenant, is connected with believing that God raised Jesus from the dead.

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation, **Romans 10:9-10**.

⁸ **And when He is come, (the Holy Spirit), He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** ⁹ **Of sin, because they believe not on Me;** ¹⁰ **Of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and ye see Me no more;** ¹¹ **Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged,** **John 16:8-11**.

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness, **Ephesians 4:24**.

And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: , **Philippians 3:9**.

If we are born-again and have become that new-man in Christ Jesus, we have right standing with Christ and are righteous; don't question it, just put on His righteousness.

In Romans 4:5-9, we see that:

- **Verse 5:** All who simply believe in Him, who justifies the ungodly, their faith is counted for righteousness.
 - **Verse 6:** Blessed is the man that God has imputed righteousness to apart from works.
 - **Verse 7-8:** Whose iniquities are forgiven and sins are covered, blessed is he that the Lord will not impute sin.
 - **Verse 9:** And just as Abraham, our faith can also be reckoned for righteousness.
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Our righteousness (*right-standing*), in Christ, is a gift to all born-again believers in Christ Jesus; why would we not put it on? Therefore, put away your foolish pride and be clothed in His pure and holy righteousness.

For Jesus prayed that we are to be one with Him and the Father. Thus, we need to align ourselves with the Father's perfect plan and be clothed in His righteousness so that the Father sees His righteous Son (*Jesus*), through us.

That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou has sent Me, **John 17:21**.

Obedience brings forth righteousness.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
Romans 6:16.

Righteousness brings forth God's blessings.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you, **Matthew 6:33**.

Healing is a by-product of righteousness

Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed, **1st Peter 2:24**.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Right-standing with God
as it should be

Righteousness as part of the armor of God: put on the breastplate of righteousness.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; **Ephesians 6:14**.

The breastplate covers the heart, and with the heart one believes that God raised Jesus from the dead; the world and the devil will try to take that belief away from you; that is what the breastplate is for, **Romans 10:9-10, {Acts 17:31}**.

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, **Romans 8:4**.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? **1st Corinthians 6:9**.

By relying on our own righteousness, none of us can fulfill God's perfect requirement of righteousness, for our self-righteousness is as filthy rags, **Isaiah 64:6**.

Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right? Luke 12:57.

Rather, we need to be judged according to the Lord's righteousness that has been imputed to us.

Judge me, O LORD my God, according to Thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me, **Psalm 35:24**.

Thus, we must be humble enough to put off what we feel is our righteousness and become clothed in the righteousness of Christ Jesus. *(it's the only way)*.

¹⁷ For if by one man's offense death reigned by One; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. . . . ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous, **Romans 5:17,19**.

For He has made Him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him, **2nd Corinthians 5:21**.

If we believe in Christ and are born-again, we are able to clothe ourselves in the righteousness of Christ Jesus.

We may not always feel righteous and act morally as we ought. But we have been given the gift of righteousness; it is up to us whether we put on the garment of righteousness.

The parable of the marriage feast, **Matthew 22:1-14**, is analogous to choosing to be clothed in Christ's righteousness or not to be. This parable Jesus spoke and said, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son."

A man invited to the wedding chose not to wear the wedding garment *that, in that culture, was provided*. When the king found out about this, that man was cast out into outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The comparison is that God gave us His Son, Jesus, and He expects us to be clothed in Him. That it may not be our own righteousness (*which always comes short*), but rather His Son's pure and spotless righteousness.