

## Hunger and Thirst Devotion – Characteristics of Righteousness

Good morning, I'm Pastor Denise Satrape, Ron and I want to thank you for joining us as we journey through these 40 days of cultivating a greater hunger and thirst for God and His righteousness.

What is Righteousness? In simple terms, **it means the state of being right with God**. Therefore, a primary meaning of righteousness is *relationship*, a "**Relationship with God.**"

**According to Romans 10:9-10**, it says when we believe in Jesus Christ and on the His finished work of the Cross, **we receive A GIFT, and that gift is the gift of His righteousness. This gift was bestowed** upon us! Not because of what we did, but on the very basis of what Jesus did for us.

Because of the Fathers love for us, Jesus willingly came to pay the full price of our unrighteousness. **1 John 5:17 states - All unrighteousness is sin... In Romans 3: 10-23, says, there is none righteous, no not one, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

Unrighteousness are acts that are in opposition or conflict to God's word, standard or character.

And, because of our inherent sinful nature, we were bent toward unrighteousness, and so our deeds were impure, self-protecting and given to selfish motivation or self-exaltation.

Jesus came to not only satisfy the debt that sin brought into the world, but to put an end to the control that our sinful nature had on us, by delivering us out of darkness into His light.

Not only have we been rescued OUT OF darkness, but His righteousness REMOVED the control of darkness that was WITHIN us!

Salvation brought about a true nature change. This nature change allows us to be right with God and this allows us to live close to God. And in living close to God, we are now free to live a transformed life in righteousness.

Just as a sinful nature has its own characteristics, so does a righteous one.

The Word of God reveals what a righteous nature looks like; so that we can adopt behaviors that are now in keeping with our new nature and right standing with God.

In Psalms 15:1-5 -we see in simple terms the characteristics of a righteous person. I'll read it from the "Passion Translation."

1. Lord, who dares to dwell with you? Who presumes the privilege of being close to you, living next to you in your shining place of glory? Who are those who daily dwell in the life of the Holy Spirit?
2. They are passionate and wholehearted, always sincere and always speaking the truth— for their hearts are trustworthy.
3. They refuse to slander or insult others; they'll never listen to gossip or rumors, nor would they ever harm another with their words.
4. They will speak out passionately against evil and evil workers while *commending* the faithful ones who follow after the truth. They make firm commitments and follow through, even at great cost.
5. They never crush others with exploitation or abuse, and they would never be bought with a bribe against the innocent. They will never be shaken; they will stand firm forever.

These passages give us a clear definition of the character of a righteous person. This definition isn't meant to define a bar that we could never live up to, but to give us a standard to GROW into.

These passages define the areas in our life where growth can take place and as we take daily steps toward allowing our new righteous character to take hold in us.

Verse 1 asks, Who dare dwell with you... We can dare to dwell with God, when we walk in the righteousness that He has freely gifted to us through Jesus Christ.

Verses 2-5, defines the characteristics of our new nature, and as we spend time with God and in His Word, His nature, will become our nature, His ways will become our ways.

Let's be a people who are in pursuit of being transformed by our amazing gift of righteousness.

Heavenly Father, Thank you for the gift that not only draws me close to you, but transforms me into the image I was destined to be. Dear Jesus, thank you for paying the ultimate price, that not only delivered me out of darkness, delivered me from the darkness within. Holy Spirit, help me to grow as I take the steps to live out my new nature in Jesus Name, Amen