

THE EFFECT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

LIFE AND PEACE AND QUIETNESS AND TRUST FOREVER

THE FRUIT AND EFFECT AND RESULT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

... ARE LIFE, PEACE, QUIETNESS AND TRUST FOREVER

The **FRUIT** of the righteous is **A TREE OF LIFE ...**

(PROVERBS 11:30A ESV)

And the **EFFECT** of righteousness will be peace,
and the **RESULT** of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

(ISAIAH 32:17 ESV)

How?



How? How do we experience the life, peace, quietness and trust forever that are the fruit and effect and result of righteousness?



1. For righteousness to have its effect in our lives the kingdom of God and his righteousness must be our overwhelming, all-consuming priority.

- (Matthew 6:33 ESV) **But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you.

A. For the righteousness of God to have its intended effect in our lives we must be totally committed to the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

How do we do this?

- i. We must believe and accept that this is the only way to live in his righteousness.
- ii. We must trust that God knows what we need and that he will provide everything that is necessary.
- iii. We must not compromise our commitment to the kingdom of God and his righteousness with our anxiety over the things we consider to be necessary.

B. For the righteousness of God to have its intended effect in our lives we must understand and accept the dynamic of seeking and finding God in Scripture.

*****The things of God, such as his sovereign rule and his righteousness, have their effect in our lives when we pursue them with all of our heart, soul, mind and might.**

- (Jeremiah 29:13 ESV) You will seek me and find me, **when you seek me with all your heart.**
- (Deuteronomy 4:29 ESV) But from there you will seek the LORD your God and **you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.**
- (Deuteronomy 10:12 ESV) And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, **to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**

- (Mark 12:29–30 ESV) Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 **And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**”

Note the wording of the command ... to love God with “all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with **all** your **mind** and with all your **strength.**”

- (Hebrews 4:12 ESV) For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and **discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

C. For the righteousness of God to have its intended effect in our lives it helps us to understand what this righteousness is.

- i. Righteousness is right acts.

Righteousness can be understood as right acts; doing the right thing; doing what is right before God. Righteousness can also mean integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness; and correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting.

- ii. Righteousness is being who we ought to be—who we were created to be.

*****But I believe we may receive the greatest help when we consider the concept of righteousness in a very broad theoretical or theological sense, and that is, understanding the concept in this way—righteousness is the “state of him who is as he ought to be.” That may sound vague until we think of it in this way. Righteousness is our rightful state before God; the state God intends for us to be in Christ; the only acceptable state of a human before a holy, righteous God.**

- iii. **Logical conclusion:** the only righteousness that is acceptable to God is the righteousness of God.

So here we must understand these three things: 1) The righteousness we are counting on must be acceptable to God. 2) The only

righteousness acceptable to God is the righteousness of God. And **3**) any moral standard set by humans is inherently and fatally flawed.

If we set the standard of righteousness in any way, then we must immediately recognize it is flawed because the righteousness of God, the righteousness that he calls us to, the righteousness of Christ which is ours in Christ, is impossible for us to even qualify or quantify, let alone attain.

iv. Logical conclusion: we desperately need the righteousness of God.

- (Philippians 3:9 ESV) And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.
- v. We receive the righteousness of God through faith in Christ alone.
 - (Romans 3:22a NIV) This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

2. When our pursuit of the kingdom of God and his righteousness is the active, overwhelming, all-consuming priority in our lives, then God goes to work in our lives producing the fruit of righteousness.

A. We will work hard at living righteous lives in obedience to the will of God.

- (Philippians 2:12b–13 NLT) Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. 13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

B. God will continue to supply everything to our lives that we need.

C. God's righteousness will have its effect in our lives, and we will live in the peace of God.

- (Isaiah 32:17a ESV) And the effect of righteousness will be peace.

D. The result of God's righteousness in our lives is quietness and trust forever.

- (Isaiah 32:17b ESV) And the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

E. Our hearts and minds will be guarded by the

peace of God, and we will live in the presence of God.

- (Philippians 4:7–9 ESV) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

3. When we are who we should be and living as we should live, we will see God for who he is.

A. We only see God for who he is when we are living as the righteous ones of God.

Remember ... righteousness is being who we ought to be—who God intends us to be in Christ.

B. We will not see God for who he is if we only live "as if" we were righteous.

- (Isaiah 29:13 NIV) The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught."
- (Isaiah 58:2 ESV) Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.

4. SO WHAT DO WE SEE WHEN WE SEE GOD FOR WHO HE IS?

A. WE SEE GOD ON HIS THRONE.

- (Psalm 45:6 ESV) Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness.
- (Psalm 9:7–8 ESV) But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, 8 and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the

peoples with uprightness.

- (Isaiah 6:1 ESV) In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.
- (Hebrews 1:8 ESV) But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.”
- (Revelation 4:2 ESV) At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.



B. WE SEE GOD MOST HIGH RULING OVER THE KINGDOMS OF HUMANS.



i. We see the One who does as he pleases.

- (Psalm 115:2–3 ESV) Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?” 3 **Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.**
- (Isaiah 40:17 ESV) **All the nations are as nothing before him,** they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.
- (Psalm 33:10–11 ESV) **The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.** 11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

ii. We see the One who created everything and rules everything.

- (Colossians 1:16–17 ESV) For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, **whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities**—all things were created through him and for him. 17 **And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**
- (1 Chronicles 29:11–12 ESV) Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and **you are exalted as head above all.** 12

Both riches and honor come from you, and **you rule over all.** In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

iii. We see the One who created the world and upholds the universe.

- (Hebrews 1:2–3a ESV) But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, **and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.**

iv. We see the One who sovereignly rules the kings of the earth.

- (Proverbs 21:1 ESV) The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; **he turns it wherever he will.**
- (Daniel 2:20–21 ESV) Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. 21 He changes times and seasons; **he removes kings and sets up kings;** he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;
- (Daniel 4:17 ESV) The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, **to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.**
- (Isaiah 40:21–23 ESV) Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; 23 **who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.**

*Filled with **the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ**—to the glory and praise of God.*

(PHILIPPIANS 1:11 NIV)

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