

- Stop waiting for perfect clarity—start serving where there’s a real need (**Ephesians 2:10**).
- Ask: “What strengthens others when I do it?” That often points to gifting (**Romans 12:3–8**).
- Let your purpose be tested in community, not in isolation (**1 Corinthians 12:4–7**).

4) MAKE A DIFFERENCE - Righteousness deployed: Abiding fruit, Spirit-empowered witness, love-driven unity

John 15:8 (NKJV) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

John 15:16 (NKJV) You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that **whatever you ask the Father in My name** He may give you.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) But **you shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth...**Go** therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...**teaching** them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**” Amen.

**The Holy Spirit empowers those who dare to act on what God has spoken.
Intimacy with the Father turns hesitation into holy boldness.**

“It is abiding in Christ that gives the right and power to ask what we will...” - **Andrew Murray**

Practical application:

- Abide before you go: build the supply line (Word + prayer) (**John 15:8, 16**).
- Ask the Holy Spirit daily for courage and love to witness (**Acts 1:8**).
- Choose one tangible act of light this week—serve, give, encourage (**Matthew 5:16**).
- Protect unity: forgive quickly; refuse offense; pursue peace (**John 13:34–35; John 17:21–23**).
- Don’t just invite people to attend—invite them to follow Jesus (**Matthew 28:18–20**).

Righteousness: The Foundation of Our Journey

Sunday, February 22, 2026

John 17:20 (NKJV) “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;
John 17:21 (NKJV) that they all **may be one**, as **You, Father, are in Me**, and **I in You**; that they also **may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

John 15:4, 7 (NKJV) **Abide in Me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, **neither can you, unless you abide in Me...**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

Righteousness is what makes that oneness and abiding possible.

Know God → Find Freedom → Discover Purpose → Make a Difference

Righteousness = right standing with God that produces right relationship with God and empowers right living before God.

1) KNOW GOD - Righteousness received: You enter God’s family and step into oneness with Him

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**, and that **not of yourselves**; it is the **gift of God**,

Romans 10:8 (NKJV) But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) that **if you confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:10 (NKJV) For **with the heart one believes unto righteousness**, and with the mouth **confession is made unto salvation**.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ**, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new**.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him**.

John 1:12 (NKJV) But as many as received Him, to them He **gave the right to become children of God**, to **those** who believe in His name:

John 1:13 (NKJV) who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- **Romans 10:8–10** shows the doorway: heart-belief and Lord-confession.
- **John 1:12–13** says you don’t become God’s child by willpower—you become God’s child by **being born of God**.

- **John 3:3–8** tells us the Spirit makes this real—something happens inwardly, spiritually.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17–21** describes the outcome: you are made new and brought into right standing and right relationship through Christ.
- Then **John 17** and **John 15** show the *goal and lifestyle*: oneness and abiding.

When we say **Know God**, we’re not talking about knowing church culture—we’re talking about **knowing God as Father**, through Jesus, by the Holy Spirit.

“You stand before God as if you were Christ, because Christ stood before God as if He were you.” -Charles Spurgeon

- If you’ve never responded to Christ: **believe + confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:8–10)**.
- If you *have* responded: start building an “abide” life immediately (**John 15:4–7**): Word, prayer, obedience.

2) FIND FREEDOM - Righteousness enjoyed: Freedom from condemnation, sin’s domination, and mental strongholds

Romans 8:1 (NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:2 (NKJV) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 6:12 (NKJV) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Romans 6:13 (NKJV) And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Romans 6:14 (NKJV) For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 12:1 (NKJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

James 4:7 (NKJV) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Find Freedom is where righteousness becomes practical: shame breaks,

thought patterns change, and Spirit-led living becomes normal.

“Satan had rather we let the grass grow on the path to our prayer-chamber than anything else.” - E.M. Bounds

- Identify one area where condemnation has been “narrating your life,” and answer it with truth (**Romans 8:1–2**).
- Choose one “presenting” shift this week—one habit you yield to God (**Romans 6:12–14**).
- Submit, then resist—don’t reverse the order (**James 4:7**).

3) DISCOVER PURPOSE - Righteousness expressed: Identity becomes assignment—gifts awakened, calling clarified

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Romans 12:3 (NKJV) For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Romans 12:4 (NKJV) For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

Romans 12:5 (NKJV) so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Romans 12:6 (NKJV) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

Romans 12:7 (NKJV) or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

Romans 12:8 (NKJV) he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 12:4 (NKJV) There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:5 (NKJV) There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:6 (NKJV) And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NKJV) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV) As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Discover Purpose is where righteousness becomes direction: I’m not serving to be accepted; I’m serving because I *am* accepted.

“You were made by God, and you were made for God. Until you understand that, life will never make sense.” - Rick Warren