

THE BENEFITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

At the cross an exchange took place, like a blood transfusion. Jesus received my blood and I received His blood. He was made to be sin and I was made righteous.

He received my sinful blood and I received His sinless blood. God sees us through the blood of Jesus and says: "You are now righteous in my eyes." And because of the blood of Jesus we will never experience the wrath of God. We should have an **awareness of righteousness** instead of an **awareness of sin**. An awareness of righteousness does the following:

1. It frees us from guilt and condemnation, Romans 8:1. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Religion tells us that we are not good enough. We must work more and try harder to please God. But the blood of Jesus made us worthy and we are as righteous as Jesus in God's eyes.

2. We give up all striving to please God! In Christ we are already pleasing God, Ephesians 1:6. We are not saved because of our good works and efforts but because of the work Jesus did for us on the cross.

3. We are no longer afraid of what the world and the devil can do to us, Romans 5:9; Isaiah 54:14. "The wicked flee when no man pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion", Proverbs 28:1.

4. Righteousness gives us peace and tranquility with God and people, Romans 8:31; Isaiah 32:17. If God is for us what does it matter who is against us?

5. Our whole being moves in harmony with God, Romans 1:16-17; 5:1. We were like instruments out of tune but God tuned us and now we live in one accord with God.

6. It gives us freedom from fear and depression! Isaiah 54:14; Genesis 3:9-10. We are no longer afraid of God, nor of the devil, nor of people. We are not afraid of the curse and its effects: sin, sickness and poverty. Sin produces cowards. Righteousness makes us bold.

7. It frees us from a feeling of inadequacy! Jesus made us capable. I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me, Philippians 4:13. Christ works in me both to will and to do His good pleasure, Philippians 2:13. We are no longer insufficient but able to do the will of God.

8. It lets us go into God's presence with great liberty and revolutionizes our prayer life, Hebrews 10:16-22; 1 Peter 3:12; James 5:16. The prayers of a righteous man accomplish much.

9. It gives us great boldness before the enemy who tries to accuse us, Ephesians 6:14. We overcome the accuser by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony, Revelation 12:11.

10. It boosts our faith and opens the door to everything God has to give, Romans 1,16f; 5:1-2; 8:31-32. Jesus made us worthy to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing, Revelation 5:12.

11. Righteousness is a greater power than sin. Sin no longer has power over us. We reign over sin through the gift of righteousness, Romans 5:17; 6:16. We have power to live as God wants us to live.

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