



Fruit of Righteousness Part 2

In *Fruit of Righteousness Part 1*, I taught that good works is the fruit of already being righteous by faith in Christ in the sight of God.

The Epistle of James makes it very clear that if we are truly righteous by faith in Christ, then our faith will show itself. In other words, we cannot help but begin to walk out the life of Christ that is flowing within us.

According to many scholars, the Book of Romans was written years after the Book of James. Even though the Book of James was written earlier, the apostle James said exactly the same thing as the apostle Paul in the Book of Romans but in another way. Let's dive in.

Romans 6:18

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Before we were believers in Christ, we were slaves to sin. We couldn't get away from it no matter how much we tried to be good or do good. We were slaves to always doing bad works. We did not care about others nor God.

When we became believers in Christ, we awoke to righteousness. We finally knew that we were the righteousness of God by simply believing in Christ and not by any works we had done. This made us into *slaves of righteousness*.

As a result, something within us will always lead us to have relationship with Christ and love people effortlessly with a genuine heart. Something within us will always give us the desire to want to do good works with a pure motive to honor Christ. That's what the apostle Paul is referring to when he describes us as a slave of righteousness.

Romans 6:19

At one time you were slaves of sin. You kept on sinning all the more. Now you gave yourselves over to being right with God. You became slaves to righteousness. You have set yourself apart for God-like living and to do His work

It is no longer that we have to do good works or someone needing to push us to do good works.

Nobody had to tell us to sin before we were born again because we were a slave to it. In like manner, nobody needs to tell us to do good works now that we are the righteousness of God in Christ because we have become slaves to righteousness.

A great man of God says it in this manner:

“True faith will no more fail to produce good works than the sun can cease to give light.” -
Martin Luther

The apostle Paul also presents his argument as an impossibility to be the righteousness of God in Christ and not perform good works. Sure, some believers in Christ might take longer than others to show the fruit and many will fail, but, sooner or later, good fruit will be visible.

Romans 6:22

But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

This comes to show that holiness is a fruit of righteousness. That same holiness that came within us to give us the gift of eternal life will also produce holiness through us as a fruit for our day to day living. This is why holiness or good works are a fruit and not the root towards a life that honors Christ. If we understood this properly, we would submerge ourselves in the grace of Christ daily because only then will we be empowered to produce fruit and live as slaves of God in the sense that we get to do good works that honor Christ with enjoyment.

James 2:23

And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God's friend.

Romans 4:3

What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

The apostle Paul as the apostle James, also chose the patriarch Abraham as an example (Romans chapter 4) to be righteous by faith in the sight of God and righteous by works in the sight of man.

If you are to look at Abraham's life after he was declared righteous by faith, he was not the greatest example to choose to prove an argument about good works in the sight of man. After Abraham was declared righteous in God's sight, he went on to sleep with Hagar and had a child outside of marriage, gave his wife to two kings so they can sleep with her, mocked God, and threw his son Ishmael out of his house and never gave a dime for child support.

Yet to God's eyes, Abraham was still righteous, and considered a friend of God despite all of his weaknesses and failures. The point is, Abraham eventually was able to show his faith and do good works in the sight of man, proving he was already righteous by faith in the sight of God. Abraham was a slave of righteousness and was listed in Hebrews as a hero of the faith.

As the righteousness of God in Christ, we too are slaves of righteousness that will do great great exploits for God.

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