

Agape House of Worship Midweek Service & Bible Study

Topic: Pursuing righteousness
Text: Proverbs 15:9

Date: November, 6, 2024
Facilitator: Pastor Patrick Ahiadzipe

Introduction: Through Christ death and resurrection, every born-again Christian has become the righteousness of God. Righteousness must become a way of living, a way of imitating Jesus based on the divine, moral law given in the Bible. It is doing what God says we should do and live how he wants us to live.

The objective of this bible study is to learn about the benefits of pursuing righteousness and ways by which we can practice it.

WHY PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS?

- ❖ The anointing is preserved for those who pursue righteousness.
Psalm 45:7 (NIV)
You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.

- ❖ You flourish like a palm tree when you pursue righteousness.
Psalm 92:12-14 (NIV)
12The righteous will flourish like a palm tree; they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
13planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. 14They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green,

- ❖ Prayer can only be effective and powerful when you pursue righteousness.
James 5:16 (NIV)
Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
1 Peter 3:12(NIV)
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

- ❖ Those who pursue righteousness will receive a crown of righteousness.
2 Timothy 4:7-8
7I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

STEPS TO PURSING RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. We need to be passionate and relentless in our pursuit of righteousness.
Matthew 5:6 (NIV)
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Question 1: How would you describe someone who is hungry and thirsty for righteousness?
2. We must ask for forgiveness and not wallow in guilt when we fall into sin.
Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)
14Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. **15**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are yet he did not sin. **16**Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
Question 2: Why do we still struggle with sin, even after we are saved?
3. Pursuing righteousness is possible when our minds are governed by God.
Romans 8:6 (NIV)
The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.
Question 3: How will you practically describe a believer whose mind is governed by the spirit of God?
4. Humbly accept the word of God.
James 1:21 (NIV)
Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.
Question 4: What instruction in scripture have you found most difficult to accept or obey?
5. By choosing our friends wisely.
Proverbs 12:26
The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.
Question 5: How does our friends affect our ability to pursue righteousness?
6. Our dependency must be on God and not on ourselves.
2 Corinthians 3:5
5Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.