

**PREACHER'S GUIDE**

**FOR THE**

**2024 JANUARY OPEN AIR PREACHING**

**OF THE**

**ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM**





**DAY ONE: MONDAY**  
**TOPIC: FINDING THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**  
**TEXT: PSALM 23:3**

*"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake" Psalm 23:3 (KJV)*

A path is simply a way or tract to walk in. The path of righteousness is a way that leads to life; it is a path where one is expected to walk daily with God in accordance with His Commandment and Will. It is adopting godly lifestyle and being faithful to God's Word. In life, there are different unrighteous paths that men choose to follow, but they lead to destruction. But the path of righteousness leads to fulfilment of purpose and life everlasting. Some of the unrighteous paths are:

1. **Crooked path:** This refers to a twisted and dishonest path that sinners opt for (Psalm 125:5).
2. **False path:** This refers to deception and wrong teachings/doctrines about God (1 Tim. 6:3-5; 4:1-2).
3. **Froward path:** This refers to a perverse path that is contrary to the Word of God (Prov. 21:8; Prov. 22:5).

**Hence, the path of righteousness is where godliness prevails, and it is characterized as:**

1. It is very narrow; it cannot accommodate sin and worldly pleasures (Matthew 7:14)
2. It is a highway of holiness (Isaiah. 35:8)
3. It is the path of the just (Isaiah 26:7)

**How do I find the path of righteousness?**

1. **Seek for Jesus:** Jesus Himself is the righteousness of God. As you seek for Him, He will come into your life (John 1:44-45).
2. **Live by the Word of God:** To find the path of righteousness, you must live by the standard of the Word of God to walk in righteousness (Psalm 119:105; John 8:31-32)
3. **Seek for the help of the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth that Has been released in these last days to help God's children to stay focused on God. Call on Him and He will provide guidance and direction to walk in the path of righteousness (John 1:12; John 16:13; Romans 8:14; Psalm 32:8).

**Benefits you derive when you follow the path of righteousness:**

1. **It is strength to the righteous:** Walking in the path of righteousness supplies supernatural strength to the righteous. This means that when you behave contrary, you will lose supernatural ability. As a believer, you need supernatural strength to live in this wicked world. You need strength to overcome every device of the devil. (Proverbs 10:29).
2. **Illumination to your path:** Walking in the path of righteousness triggers illumination. This illumination is a by-product of the Word of God. It is impossible to walk in this path and remain in darkness (Proverbs 4:18; Psalm 119:105).
3. **Blessings of God:** You can't walk in the path of righteousness and remain unblessed. The blessing of God comes upon a man when he genuinely walks in the righteous path (Psalm 128:1; Psalm 119:1; Jeremiah 6:16).
4. **Longevity:** Walking in the path of righteousness guarantees access to long life here on earth. Disobedience to the Word of God is one of the things that brings untimely death (Deut. 6:2; Prov. 3:2).
5. **Eternal Life:** Finding the path of life and genuinely walking in it is a prerequisite to everlasting life. Everyone that desires to meet Jesus when He comes in the cloud will always be determined to walk in this path, for in it lies eternal life with God (Proverbs 12:28; Psalm 16:11).

God's desire is to lead His children in the path of righteousness. But the main job is in finding the path. Except you locate this path, you will continue to struggle in your walk with God. Depend on the Holy Spirit and He will provide you with all the required help.



## **DAY TWO: TUESDAY**

### **TOPIC: BECOMING THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST**

**TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5: 21**

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him".*

Hallelujah! We finally arrived in the year 2024. Welcome to the leap year and I am sure you are excited about it. It is the year that God has given you extra from the usual. He is good to all. As a church, we are out again on the great commission mandate to preach the good tidings to all people. The theme for the year 2024 is: Awake to righteousness. I encourage you to draw closer to receiving more from God through His words. To be righteous means to be morally right or justifiable. It means someone upright; following and doing what is right. This righteousness is not a personal assessment but rather what people make and declare of you based on their assessment in comparison with defined standards. The Bible described this level of righteousness as a filthy rag before God. Be it as it may, God desires that we step up to a higher level of righteousness that he offers. This is the righteousness of God in Christ. How can this be possible for me?

#### **How to become the righteousness of God in Christ.**

To become the righteousness of God in Christ, you must consider the following points:

- a) It is a righteousness that is not earned but given in exchange. You cannot attain this level by your work because of the sinful nature of mankind. Nevertheless, Christ takes up your sins and in exchange gives you His righteousness (Galatians 5:16-21)
- b) It is not bought for by your offerings or sacrifice but has already been paid for. God's righteousness is such that will not cost you anything to receive because Jesus has taken up the cost with his blood (Romans 5:9)
- c) When God makes a declaration of righteousness over you it is eternal and not temporary. This means that God dismisses your original sin conviction without prejudice. (Romans 3:21-24)
- d) This justification or declaration of righteousness over your life is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe (Romans 3:21-24).

#### **How does one benefit from the righteousness of God in Christ?**

The story of salvation through Jesus Christ is the good news of the gospel to all mankind. You just need to do the following to benefit from the complete package of salvation:

1. Believe in heart the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved (Romans 10:3-10).
2. Confess with your mouth your sins and acknowledge by faith the redemptive power of the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9).
3. Receive the power of the Holy Spirit which indwells in you and gives the grace to live above sin. Continue to seek the presence of God (1 John 3:6-7; 1 Peter 5:6)

#### **Finally, my beloved; now that you have received salvation through faith and become righteous in Christ:**

- a) You need to maintain your relationship with God through Jesus Christ by praying to be filled with the Spirit and be immersed in God's word (Colossians 3:16).
- b) Equip yourself with the word of God through fellowship with the saints to be able to overcome all wiles of the devil (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 6:12-18).
- c) Remain committed in your pursuit to walk in the Spirit and that may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment (Philippians 1:9-11; Galatians 5:16,25)

Remember, all unrighteousness is sin and without Christ, you can do nothing. Awake this 2024 in righteousness now!



## **DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY**

### **TOPIC: LIVING THE LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

#### **TEXT: GALATIANS 5:16-25**

Righteous living is a mandatory lifestyle for all Christian believers. The foundation was laid by Christ for all to build on it as our path to eternal life. One who is born of God conducts his life in an upright manner. Your moral standards should also reflect good relationship with Christ. You are not bound to live as you wish or like; you are under obligation to live and walk in accordance with the Holy Spirit. Living the life of righteousness is unconditional, just like Paul said, *“if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord”* (Romans 14:8).

#### **Prevailing conditions for living the life of righteousness:**

To succeed in living the life of righteousness, the following conditions must prevail:

1. You must wage and win the war against the flesh (Galatians 5:16-21)
2. Walk with integrity (Psalm 15:2<sup>a</sup>)
3. Work in righteousness (Psalm 15:2<sup>b</sup>)
4. Speak the truth in your heart (Psalm 15:2<sup>c</sup>)
5. Do not backbite with your tongue (Psalm 15:3<sup>a</sup>)
6. Do not commit evil to your neighbour nor take up a reproach against your neighbour (Psalm 15:3<sup>b</sup>).
7. Live in holiness; be separated from sinners in terms of conduct and character (1 Peter 1:15-16)

#### **The benefits of living the life of righteousness**

The Scripture is explicit about the benefits we derive by living the life of righteousness.

1. You bear the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
2. You have been crucified with Christ. Christ lives in you (Galatians 2:20).
3. It will give you the key to the gate of life (Proverbs 21:21)
4. You have the assurance of quality health and prosperity (3 John 2; Proverbs 21:21).
5. You are following the path of honour (Proverbs 21:21).
6. You are no longer slave or servant to sin, but you are friends with Jesus Christ (John 15:15-17).
7. You enjoy the gift of God which is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:23).

#### **The dangers of not living the life of righteousness**

1. It is an act of ingratitude; meaning that you have failed to appreciate the price Jesus paid on the Cross of Calvary; that shows that for you, He died in vain. The consequence is that you would not share in His glory when He returns (Galatians 2:21; Romans 8:17, 30-31).
2. Christ the author of righteousness will deny you on the last day (Matthew 7:22-23; Matthew 25:51-46).
3. Eternal death awaits those not living the life of righteousness (Revelation 20:11-15).

Let your light shine in this world of darkness. Strive to live the life of righteousness unconditionally; your reward is eternal life with Christ.



## DAY FOUR: THURSDAY

### TOPIC: THE POWER OF A RIGHTEOUS LIFE

TEXT: PSALM 34:19; ISAIAH 54:14-17

*“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all”.*

The word ‘power’ means authority. Infusing it in the sentence that formed the topic of this message, it simply means the authority God has given to His people to live a righteous life. Righteousness is not by personal effort or strength. It is given through the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ by shedding His precious blood for our sin. Those who believe in Him and chose to live a new life in Christ are deposited with that power of a righteous life. No one is born with it. It is a privilege anyone can enjoy, depending on the choice you made.

#### Facts to know about the power of a righteous life

1. **It is not for the cynical or suspicious ones:** It is dangerous to give power to a negative-minded person or someone who lacks integrity. This is common among the unbelievers (John 1:10-11).
2. **It comes from the Holy Spirit:** Without the Holy Spirit, living a righteous life is not possible (Acts 2:38; Zechariah 4:6).
3. **It strengthens you towards overcoming challenges:** Believers on daily basis, are confronted with various challenges, tribulations, and afflictions that could easily pull them down, if not the power of the righteous life (Psalm 34:19; Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:11-12).
4. **You live in sync with God’s law:** You are restricted to the obedience of God’s law no matter the pressure; you refuse to yield (2 Corinthians 10:5<sup>b</sup>; Romans 8:18).
5. **Possessing the power of a righteous life makes one prosperous and fruitful:** God is the author of wealth and riches. Therefore, living a righteous life attracts blessings ranging from wealth and riches (Psalm 112:1-3; Ecclesiastes 5:19).
6. **It provides strength to thread that path to salvation:** Walking the thorny path to salvation requires spiritual strength which only the power of a righteous life can provide (Philip. 4:13).

#### Steps towards receiving the power to live a righteous life

1. Hear the Gospel of salvation (Hebrews 10:17).
2. Believe and accept **Christ in your life:** Accepting Jesus as your Lord and Saviour is the first step to receive the power of a righteous life (Acts 16:31; John 1:12; Acts 1:8)
3. Repent from sin and become a new man in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
4. Confess Jesus Christ with your mouth. The more you speak, the more unction you receive (Rom 10:9-11)
5. Be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Water baptism is the first step; baptism of the Holy Spirit is the climax (Acts 1:4-5; Acts 11:16).
6. Be faithful and diligent in the service to God; whether life or death. Be deliberate about it (Philippians 1:20-22; Romans 14:8-10).

#### The benefits we enjoy for possessing the power of the righteous life

1. You shall be established in righteousness (Isaiah 54:14<sup>a</sup>).
2. You develop high sense of boldness that would chase away oppression, fear, and terror (Isaiah 54:14<sup>b</sup>).
3. God is ready to fight your battle, defend you and avenge your enemies (Isaiah 54:15-16).
4. Every weapon formed against you shall be destroyed, whether spiritual, lethal, or oral (Isaiah 54:17).
5. Being washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, you shall inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Power is given to man to serve God and humanity. Abuse of power would lead to loss of it. The power given to us by God equips us to be able to overcome the evils of this world and live in sync with the laws of God.





**DAY FIVE: FRIDAY**  
**TOPIC: FLOURISHING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**  
**TEXT: PSALM 92:12-15**

*"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; To shew that the Lord is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him" (KJV).*

The word Flourish means to grow vigorously and get to a high point; to boom, to thrive, to blossom. In other words, it entails making remarkable progress in every area of life's endeavours. Excelling in different areas of life is the desire of everyone but specifically, we are more interested in the way or route to your growth and life of bounty. It must be in the way or fear of the Lord. However, in our today's world, it has become rather difficult to drive this message down because very many people believe that it is near impossible to live a righteous life and still excel in what you do. But as God's Children, it is good to emphasize on some kingdom realities.

### **Kingdom Realities**

1. **Flourishing in Righteousness is possible:** Joseph was a young man that faced a golden opportunity to excel in iniquity, but he refused and took to righteousness; yet he still prospered (Gen 39:7-23; Dan 1:11-15; Dan 11:32<sup>b</sup>)
2. **Flourishing in Righteousness is God's wish, desire, and design for us, His children:** Amongst all of God's wishes for us, one of them is that we flourish - excel, blossom in all we do - but without blame or blemish (3 Jn 3:2; Isa 8:18; Ps 1:3; 1Chron 29:12; Ps 32:8).
3. **Flourishing is one of God's rewards for righteousness:** One of the ways God rewards His children who live a righteous life is to make them Flourish (Ps 92:12<sup>a</sup>; Job 36:11; Is 45:3; Ps 24:3-5; Prov 14:11 Ps 72:7-9).

### **When You Flourish in Righteousness**

1. You will last long on earth to enjoy the blessings of God - Proverbs (8:18, Ecclesiastes 5:19)
2. God will be proud of you (Job 1:8; Genesis 22:15-18)
3. You will make heaven at last (Matthew 25:46<sup>b</sup>).

### **When You Flourish in Unrighteousness**

1. You will not last (Ps 37:1-2; Job 20:4-23).
2. You won't make genuine kingdom impact (John 12:6).
3. You will be condemned on the last day (Matt 7:22-23).

In all our dealings in life, let us remember that the devil is making serious waves in selling a lie to this generation that you cannot make it unless you soil your hands. Our offices, businessmen/women, churches, contractors, industries and mostly our youths, everywhere has been deeply pranged and corrupted by the devil. But we are the generation of those who have resolved to seek and rely on God's model to flourish (Psalm 24:6). Know that anything and everything the devil gives you will eventually cost you your soul (Mark 8:36).



**DAY SIX: SATURDAY**  
**TOPIC: WINNING THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS**  
**TEXT: DANIEL 6:20-22**

*“And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and, before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.”*

Many winners have emerged in different contests, both local and international, even in churches and secular society. Winners are always rewarded with handsome prizes with high values attached. However, not all winners in our society are legitimate. Some have won through illegitimate means-by hook and crook, bribery, and corruption. Winning through righteousness is the only means of winning that is divinely rewarded. It is the kind of winning that would earn you the eternal crown as prize. This is Christ pattern of winning. Daniel truly showed that winning through righteousness is possible. Throughout his ordeal, he was not forsaken by God when it mattered most.

#### **What winning through righteousness entails**

1. **Winning while in right standing with God:** Abraham had a right standing with God and He did not mince word in expressing it. Daniel and David also (Genesis 18:17-19; Dan. 6:20-22; 1 Sam. 17:45-46).
2. **Don't entertain any fears:** Stand with God and fear not, even though defeat appears obvious. The Israelites thought that all hope was lost when they got to the bank of the Red Sea, being hotly chased by Pharaoh's chariots (Exo 14:13-14).
3. **Never compromise despite standing alone:** Joseph refused to be lured to sin despite the pressure and promises of material things (Genesis 39:7-9; Daniel 1:8).
4. **Keep to your faith even unto death:** Daniel was a lone ranger in Babylon. Shadrach and his brothers were also in the minority, but they did not cave in nor compromised their faith in God (Daniel 3:17-18; Daniel 6:10-14).

#### **Some of the ways to win through righteousness.**

1. **Seek God's presence always:** Make reading of God's words a daily habit. Being in His presence always helps you grow closer to Him. The more you grow is the more you win (1 Chronicles 16:11; 1 Chronicles 22:19; James 4:8<sup>a</sup>).
2. **Walk in the Spirit:** Allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and convict you through bearing of the fruit of the Spirit, is a sure way to secure your victory (Galatians 5:22-23).
3. **Get wisdom:** No victory can be achieved without the application of wisdom. Ask God for it (Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 4:7; Ecclesiastes 10:10<sup>b</sup>).
4. **Giving Generously:** Jesus is the most generous Giver on earth. He gave Himself as a sacrifice. Giving is loving. Love is the greatest fruit of the Spirit (1 John 3:17; Acts 20:35).

#### **The Benefits of winning through righteousness**

1. The battle is the Lord's; therefore, the victory belongs to Him (2 Chronicles 20:15).
2. Your victory is assured. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego became victorious against all odds.
3. Your victory is permanent. David destroyed Goliath and the Philistines completely (1 Samuel 17:49-52).
4. You would hear the echoes of victory ahead of time (Psalm 118:15-16).

God is always pleased with those who obey and honour Him. He would never let them be put to shame. Living in righteousness is a win already against sin and Satan.



## DAY SEVEN: SUNDAY

### TOPIC: AWAKE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

#### TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:34-35

*“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame. But some man will say, how are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?”*

To be awake is to be fully conscious, alert, and aware. It means that you are not asleep. It is practically impossible for the rat to steal where the cat is awake. It would meet severe counterattack. This is how it is with us and our environment. Many people are walking around physically with their two eyes opened, but in the realm of the spirit, they are not awake. They are suffering from spiritual slumber. They have been hypnotized with all sorts of satanic manipulations; walking around in full carnality, but spiritually they are dead. Without Christ, it is impossible to be awake to righteousness. It is just like saying that one is sleeping without his eyes. Any righteousness without Christ is self-righteousness, which God hates.

#### **Being awake to righteousness**

Being awake to righteousness is showing strong commitment and diligence with everything that has to do with the Word of God. This includes:

1. **Keeping of God's Word:** Paying attention to God's Word, holding firm or obeying it shows the value you attach to it (Leviticus 26:3-6).
2. **Putting God's Word into practice:** Do not just be hearers of the Word but doers (James 1:22).
3. **Leading people to Christ:** It is your responsibility as believers to lead souls to Christ, by preaching the Word of God to them. It shows you are awake and alive to your responsibility (Mark 16:15-16; Prov. 11:30).

#### **Factors that keep you awake to righteousness.**

1. The love for God's Word keeps you awake to righteousness and prevents you from sinning (1 Corinthians 15:34).
2. Having the knowledge of who you are in Christ (Romans 8:29; 1 Corinth. 12:27; Ephesians 1:3-8).
3. Having the knowledge of what you are made of. You are complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10)
4. Having the knowledge that the power in you is stronger than all powers put together (1 John 4:4; Philippians 4:13).
5. Being conscious of your environment, friends, and associates enables your resistance to any negative influences (Proverbs 1:10; Gen. 39:8-7-10).
6. Knowing what Satan can do and fighting to prevent him. If you are not ignorant of Satan's vices, he would not take advantage of you (2 Corinthians 2:11).

#### **Why I should be awake to righteousness.**

1. To keep away from carnality and be spiritually minded always (Romans 8:6-11).
2. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Christ does not sin; therefore, I have no room for iniquity to dwell in me (2 Corinthians 5:21).
3. I have been forewarned to “watch and pray” for the days are evil, lest Satan takes me unaware and undue advantage of me (Matthew 26:41; Eph. 5:16; 1 Peter 5:8).
4. No package of the devil no matter “how beautiful” should distract my attention from Christ (Romans 8:35-37).

There are sleeping giants walking around in the world today. They are awake physically but in deep spiritual slumber. Even in churches they are there. Worshipping or serving God without righteousness is a sign of spiritual deadness. Once you are battling between light and darkness, being spiritually conscious is a must.