

LENT DEVOTION

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The “Righteousness of God” calls for “Faithfulness” on the part of the believer. In other words, a ‘righteous’ person is a ‘faithful’ person. For in the Gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to the last (that is, from “faith to faith”), just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith” (Romans 1:17). Every step the believer takes is “faith to faith” and that happens throughout his or her life. “The enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright – but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness” (Habakkuk 2:4). The motives and desires of an unbeliever is not ‘upright’ but that of a believer is ‘always’ faithful in all his or her dealings.

That is the difference between the ‘self-righteous person’ and that of the believer. That is the problem of the present age which fosters the philosophy: “What is right to you need not be right to me; or what is wrong to me need not be wrong to me!” The faithfulness of the believer does not change with the circumstances, situations, or people. The believer does not make the decisions based on ‘situational ethics’ but on ‘standards set by God’ - the moral and ethical standards revealed in the principles of the Word of God.

“Knowing but not doing” the right thing in spite of the situations around him or her is one of the tests that a believer has to wrestle with in life. The other test is to know what is morally and ethically right but not doing the right thing at the ‘right time!’ The reason for such an approach may be fear of people, or indifference, or selfishness. A righteous person does not change his or her moral and ethical standards but always remains ‘faithful’ to the standards of God – just like God does. “For great is His love toward us, and the ‘faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.’ Praise the Lord” (Psalm 117:2).