

# LENT DEVOTION

Austin Christian Fellowship of India (ACFI)

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The "thinking" of our mind is the root cause of any "desire" in our hearts. It is only "by renewing of our minds" we are being "transformed" (Romans 12:1). It is the "desire" in the heart of a person that drags and entices a person. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth either to righteousness and ultimately life or sin and ultimately death - depending on whether the desire is evil and selfish or righteous respectively (James 1:14--15). Someone has paraphrased it as follows: "Sowing the seed of thought begets an action. Sowing the seed of an action begets a habit. Sowing the seed of habit begets ones character."

A believer is required to sow the seeds of the "desire for righteousness" in his or her life irrespective of the situations and conditions. Because a believer is an "instrument of righteousness" in this world. It refers not only to living an exemplary life but also bringing the changes in the world like salt and light. A believer ought to influence his or her world with righteousness. A believer ought to set the standard for righteousness.

Right standing with God ensures the "gift of eternal life." Also the growth in righteousness not only assures the gift of eternal life but it is also being used as an instrument of Righteousness as per God's standards. That is the reason why the Word of God exhorts: "Whatever is true, whatever is Noble, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent, or praiseworthy-- think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).