

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from (by) faith to faith; as it is written, ‘but the righteous man shall live by faith.’” (Rom 1:16-17) As I was reading this passage, what stood out to me was that Paul said, *in the gospel*, “the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith.” What is this gospel that can manifest the righteousness of God in our lives?

Paul writes, “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.” (1 Cor 15:1-2) Paul then goes on to outline the gospel for us. “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (1 Cor 15:3-4)

Jesus did “not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” (Luk 5:32) We must first come to Him as sinners, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. When we come to God with a humble and repentant heart, then we can be “justified by faith and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom 5:1)

The power of the gospel is not only in the fact that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, but also that He was raised again on the third day. It is through the resurrection of Christ from the dead that we can have victory over sin in our lives. “For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, *much more*, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (Rom 5:10) “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, *certainly* we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.” (Rom 6:4-5)

This is the hope and power that we have in the gospel through Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit. If we believe the gospel and allow the Spirit to continue to work in our lives, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies *through His Spirit*. (Rom 8:11) “Seeing that His divine power (the Holy Spirit) has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness ... that you might become partakers of the divine nature.” (2 Pet 2:3-4) It is the Spirit of grace which instructs us to “deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age.” (Tit 2:12)

I was encouraged through these Scriptures that as I continue to grow from faith to faith, I can become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Cor 5:21) and be transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Cor 3:18) It is only through Jesus Christ “we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.” (Rom 5:2) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a *living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Pet 1:3)