

The Character of an Obtainer

Part 1 - Righteousness

The first characteristic of any obtainer is being secure in their righteousness

- No believer can have the heart of an obtainer if they are not sure in who God has made them to be
 - Every believer has been made the righteousness of God in Christ, but it must go beyond mental assent to being a living revelation that transforms our lives
 - A lack of this revelation leads to doubt and insecurity about who we are in Christ and prevents us from developing the attitude of an obtainer
 - Every believer must meditate on the nature we have been given and realize that the very nature of God has been imparted in us and in Christ, *we have been made just as righteous as He is*
 - Many would consider this an arrogant and blasphemous statement, but only when looked at through a mind unrenewed to the Word of God
 - The clearer this revelation becomes in our spirit, the more zealous we become, *not as one who focuses on who they once were, but who they have been made in Christ*

Proverbs 28:1

- This passage is a clear indication of how the revelation of our right-standing with God determines our attitude and whether or not we become obtainers
 - When we know that our old nature no longer exists and God's nature is now in us, we are freed from the former bondages and are equipped to live a life of faith and victory
- The word "bold" here carries with it the idea of *being confident in a person or thing*
 - The very reason the righteous have the boldness of a lion inside them is because they are confident and secure in who they now are in Jesus
 - The revelation of righteousness causes us to look at ourselves in a mirror and be completely confident that we cannot be stopped from running our race and winning

- *Its time for believers to start believing in themselves!*
 - This does not mean that we place God to the side and start trusting in ourselves, but rather that we have the confidence David expressed by saying, “*I can run through a troop and leap over a wall!*”
 - When David said this, he was boldly declaring that he could do great things
 - He expressed this same boldness when facing Goliath and consequently, he *RAN AT THE GIANT* and killed him; the fact that he ran was evidence of his confidence in who he was and the covenant he had with God
- Far too often believers will be lightning fast to say that they trust God’s ability, but they are sometimes very wary of expressing confidence in what they are capable of doing and accomplishing
 - This insecurity comes from believers *not throwing off the chains of the past*, continually meditating on who they were before salvation
 - The more this happens to the believer, *the more insufficient and inadequate they see themselves*; they do not focus on being a new creation, but on the old sinner that was doomed for destruction
 - The more we realize who we are and what we have in Christ, the boldness of our righteous nature rises up in us, propelling us to obtain God’s highest and best
 - This attitude is further expressed in *Philippians 4:13*; when our righteous nature dominates our lifestyle, we can boldly say, “*I can do all things*...; our self-perception is entirely changed:
 - Instead of being a failure, I am a success
 - Instead of being conquered, I am more than a conqueror
 - Instead of being ruled by the devil, I rule and reign in this life
 - Instead of being apprehensive and fearful, I become bold as a lion
 - When God’s children begin believing in themselves, their boldness will rise to new heights and strengthen them to be an obtainer

Proverbs 11:4-5

- Verse 4 explains that when a believer is secure in his right-standing with God, it will deliver him from paths of destruction

- The enemy has set traps along the path for every believer's life and in order to avoid those pitfalls, we must know that the faith in our righteousness in Christ will overcome every trap, regardless of how big or small
- When looking at the traps of the devil, we must not think of these traps in terms of big and small, even though some traps of the devil may have greater consequences
- When we think in terms of big and small, it is easy to develop the mindset that God is faithful to deliver from the smaller issues but not always sure to deliver from the greater storms
- Every time we spot a trap of the enemy, we must know that God will deliver us from EVERY trap; if we quit thinking in terms of big and small, we will be equally bold in both the harder times in the easier times
- Verse 5 then goes on to tell us what enables us to avoid destruction and even when we come face to face with it, we can rise up and conquer it every time
 - We are told that *a believer's righteousness will direct the path of his feet*
 - The result of our righteousness is that we receive specific direction on how to maneuver down our path in victory; the righteous obtain all they need - spiritually, physically and mentally – to possess all that God has given them
 - This word direct means “to make smooth and straight”; this does not mean that there will not be tests and trials to overcome, but that due to our right-standing, we can walk straight down our path, no matter how hard or pressing it may become
 - This is further seen in Psalms 1:6; the reason our path is smooth and straight is because the Lord created the path for our lives
 - When we seek the Lord and follow His specific path for our lives, our feet are directed down the path smoothly; *it can be a smooth walk even in the midst of storms*
- Example: Jesus asleep in the back of the boat (Matthew 8)
 - Even in the midst of a howling storm, Jesus was so confident and secure in His right-standing with the Father that *he was able to sleep in the middle of a storm*
 - While the disciples were panicking in the boat, they looked at Jesus and thought he was being careless and irresponsible

- In fact, Jesus was being *CARE-LESS*; Jesus was not burdened down with anxiety like the disciples, but was so confident that the crashing waves could not intimidate Him
- The same account of this in Mark 4 further shows why Jesus could go to sleep in the boat: he had already given the command to go to the other side
 - Once Jesus had given the command to go to the other side, *as far as Jesus was concerned, nothing at all could prevent that from happening*
 - Jesus gave the command in faith, then He simply stretched out in the back of the boat in perfect peace; *no howling wind or crashing wave was even able to wake Him up*
- This must be how children of God must act in the midst of storms
 - It has gotten to the point today that when we have a cough, a sneeze, or a runny nose, we begin shooting unbelief out of our mouths and allow the enemy to start a storm in our lives
 - Not only that, but many times the enemy uses those around us to trap us: *you sneeze once then everyone says, “what are you coming down with”, “you got a cold?” “This is flu season...”*
 - Then if we agree with them, we’ve opened the door for the enemy to come in and work his destructive work in us
- We must be so secure in our righteousness that when we see an attack of the devil, we run AT him rather than FROM him, just as David did with Goliath
 - While everyone else was standing around focusing on the height and the muscles of a giant sitting and mocking their God, David saw this uncircumcised Philistine with no covenant, picked up his rocks and RAN at him
 - Our righteousness will give us a level of boldness that when we encounter the devil’s attacks, we run at him like a lion toward its prey; we are ready to devour anything standing in our way
- We must do just as Abraham did in Romans 4: *he did not consider the circumstances*; he did not allow anything contradictory to God’s word to quench his faith
 - He would not allow his 100-year old body or Sarah’s dead womb to nullify his belief that he would become the father of many nations

- He believed it to the point that he was willing to tie the child God had given him to an altar, raise a knife up to kill him and do just as God commanded
- This confidence, however, was expressed *even before he went up to sacrifice Isaac*: in Genesis 22, he told those around him, “... *the boy and I will go and worship, then return*”
- Even if he had to go through with the sacrifice, he still expected that God would raise him from the dead: *either way, he knew Isaac was coming down from that mountain with him*
- Not only that, but *Isaac had to have and equal level of boldness; HE ALLOWED HIS FATHER TO TIE HIM TO THE ALTER*
- If Abraham could do that under the old covenant, how much MORE bold should we be under a BETTER covenant with BETTER promises!

Once we allow ourselves to become secure in our right-standing with God, *the result of that security is that we have the faith to walk in our full inheritance*

Isaiah 60:21

- An unshakable revelation of a believer's righteousness positions himself to possess all the promises of God
 - When we understand who we are in Christ, we are sure that we are deserving of all that is promised to us
 - This confident assurance strengthens our faith and eliminates doubt from our minds
 - However, if it remains unchecked, this *double-mindedness can progressively cripple our faith and make it unproductive*
 - Jesus told us that “a house divided against itself will fall.” When doubt and unbelief are allowed to take root in our hearts, the foundation of our faith weakens
 - We cannot permit fear and unbelief to choke our faith because if allowed, the weakening of our faith will result in the collapse of the house
- When we strengthen our faith by the Word and are rooted and grounded in God's love, we can boldly possess our inheritance in Christ

- Our right-standing in Christ causes us to be single-minded, focused on God's love and our faith in His Word
- By knowing that the old man has passed away and we have God's very nature in us, *our mind's quit wavering and become renewed*; we boldly take possession of all the promises of God, which are yes and amen to His glory
- Walking in the light of our righteousness and God's Word equips us to receive God's very best, which gives *glory to the Father in the midst of a worldly system opposed to Him*
 - This worldly system and the people in it are trying to be their own source, which only results in struggle and disappointment
 - When they see the righteous inheriting the promises of God without the constant turmoil and complications, this gives glory to God and is a witness that draws people to Christ

Psalms 118:19-20

- In verses 19 and 20, it declares what happens when we know we are righteous, *rather than just a sinner saved by grace*
 - This is one of the most contradictory statements that has ever been used by the body of Christ
 - Countless believers have used this statement for years, *thinking it was a badge of humility and praise to God, when actually it is a sign of ignorance to the Word*
 - You cannot be both: *you are either a sinner or you are saved by grace; which one are you?*
 - Those who use this statement are usually outraged when you tell them that you have been made righteous by the blood of Jesus
- But when the light of righteousness shines in our hearts David declares that the gates of righteousness are opened to us
- The gates of God's best and finest are opened for us to enjoy
- The very fact that the gates are opened for us makes 2 things very clear:
 - First, that *inheriting God's best should never be a struggle for the believer*

- This verse does not say that we have to kick down the gates of righteousness or try to persuade and coax Him into opening them, but that God sees us at the gate and gladly opens them for His children
 - When we think that it is up to us to see that the gates are opened, this shows that *we are not rooted and grounded in God's love*; we question the surety of His love and whether He will come through for us every time
- Second, *it shows us the depth of God's love for us*: it shows us how eager He is to make sure His best becomes ours
 - When believers come to the knowledge of their righteousness and stand at the gates in faith, the gates are open to freely walk through
 - *Romans 8:32* tells us that if God was willing to send His Son as a sacrifice for the world, would He not with Him *freely give us all things*?
 - God did not send Jesus just to save us from hell, but to make sure that we possess everything pertaining to life and godliness: spirit, soul and body
- The revelation of being the righteousness of God in Christ is one of the key characteristics of any believer looking to obtain God's best
 - It shows us that God's nature is in us, causing us to throw off the chains of the past and the diseased nature of the lost world
 - It produces in us an attitude and outlook on life that inspires us to live in faith and a confidence that would not be possible otherwise
 - It is a necessity for anyone who desires to be directed by the Lord down His path of righteousness for their life
 - Our right-standing guarantees us that by faith, we will always be delivered from all things seeking to steal, kill and destroy our lives
 - It instills in our spirits a confidence, both who we are and what we have been created to do
 - This light in our inner man looses in us the boldness of a lion, not being persuaded or moved by any circumstance opposed to the Word; We become secure, fixed and ready to inherit all we have been given through Christ
 - It also positions the believer to possess all their inheritance in Christ; to freely enjoy God's best, not only in this life, but in the life to come

