

The Blessed Life
Righteousness
Matthew 5:5

What Do You Long For?

Are You Under Control?



Hunger and Thirst are normal desires given to us by God.

Remind us to eat, which provides the energy and fluids we need to be strong, to be healthy, so that we can the work, play, live.



What do we hunger and thirst for?

Some long for things that are bad for us

Meet our most shallow desires and don't meet our physical needs.

For the moment they taste good, but lack nutrition.



If that's all that we eat...

We end up fat, unhealthy, and unable to live.



Rather, we know that we are to eat foods that provide nutrition.

We all know that we are supposed to eat the right foods, but do we really long for them?



While I might choose to eat some steamed broccoli, what I long for is the ice cream sundae with warm fudge.



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness:
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be satisfied.

"blessed"

> Happy

= Approved by God



Much deeper meaning: approved by God and therefore favored by God; we are to be congratulated. Applause of heaven (Lucado)



Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness:**
for they shall be satisfied.

Due to my sin, my rebellion, I know that something is missing in my life... Jesus provides salvation, and a way of living that is pleasing to God.

And I need to long for this righteousness.



Doing what is correct;
being one who is right

Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness:**
for they shall be satisfied.

Righteousness is more than just a desire to do what is right. It is really about being the right person, having the right character, being like God.



My **food** is to do the will of Him who
sent me and to accomplish His work.
John 4:34

John 4:34: Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

Kept law and encouraged others to be obedient to God...



Lepers to show themselves to the priests (Mt. 8:4).

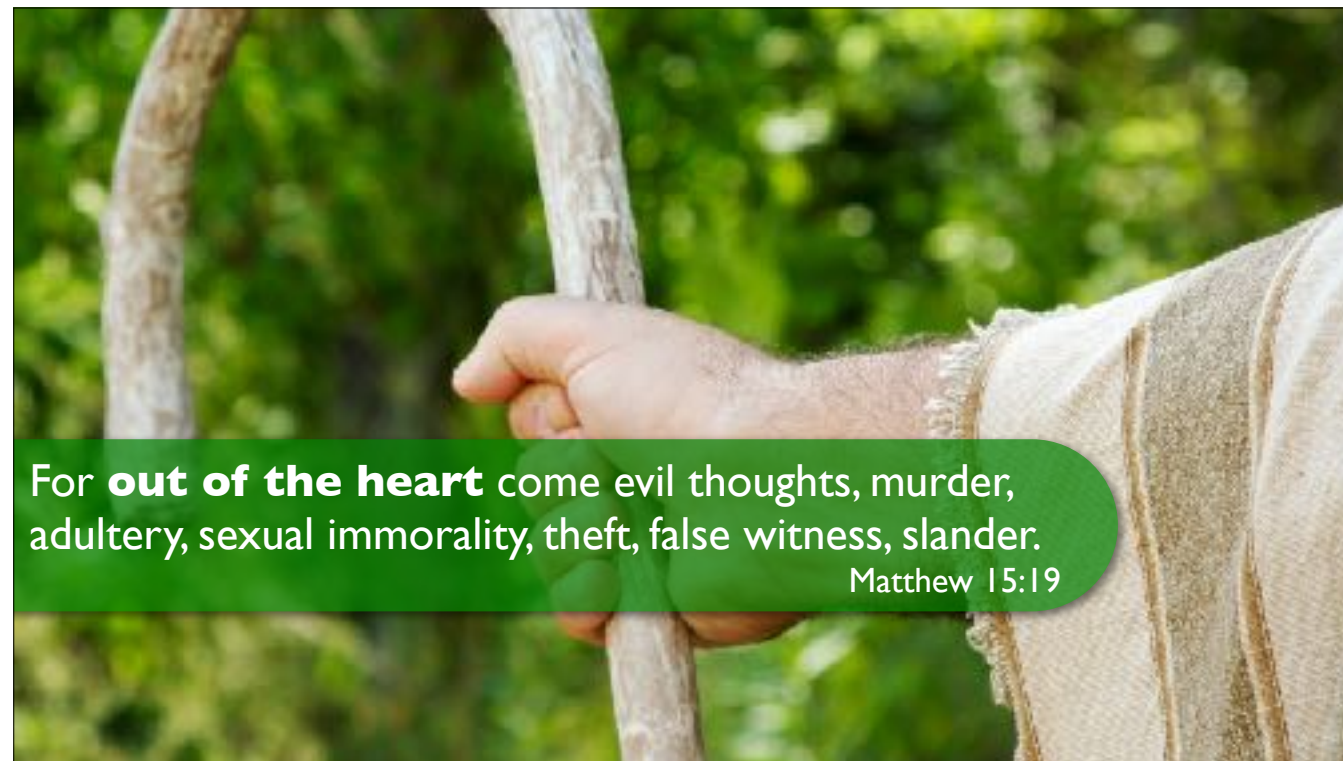
Wore fringes on his garment (Mt. 9:20; 14:36)

Paid taxes (Mt. 17:24-27)

Keeping Commandments (Mt. 15:1-10)

[more about heart, next slide]

Mt. 15



For **out of the heart** come evil thoughts, murder,
adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
Matthew 15:19

Righteousness is not just about rule keeping, though.

Keeping Commandments (Mt. 15:1-10)

Note: “heart is far from me” (8); 18-19!



- Hebrews 11:8-19 (ESV) 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

By **faith** Abraham ...

— **obeyed** ... went out

Hebrews 11:8-19

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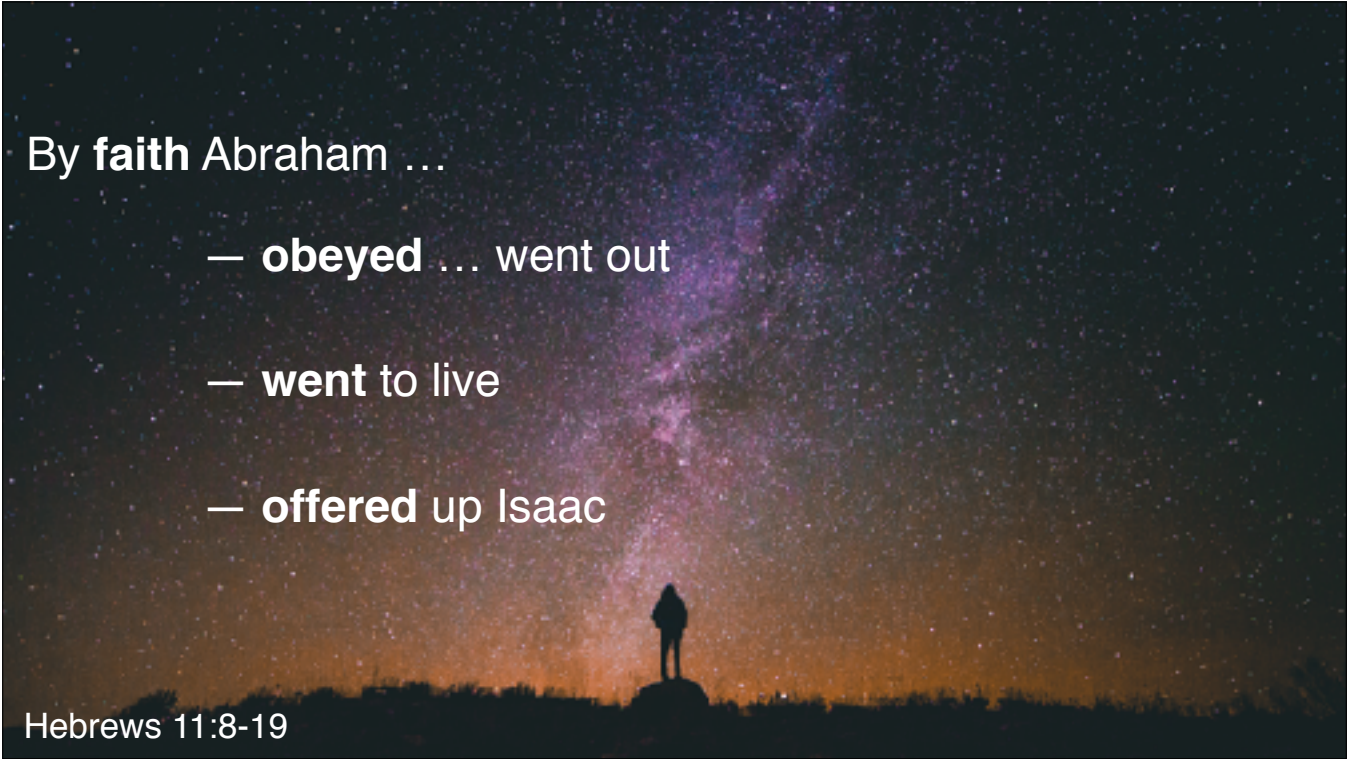
By **faith** Abraham ...

— **obeyed** ... went out

— **went** to live

Hebrews 11:8-19

- 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

A person stands on a dark, silhouetted hill under a vast night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching diagonally across the frame from the bottom right towards the top left. The sky is filled with numerous stars, and the overall color palette is dark with hints of purple and blue from the galaxy's light.

By **faith** Abraham ...

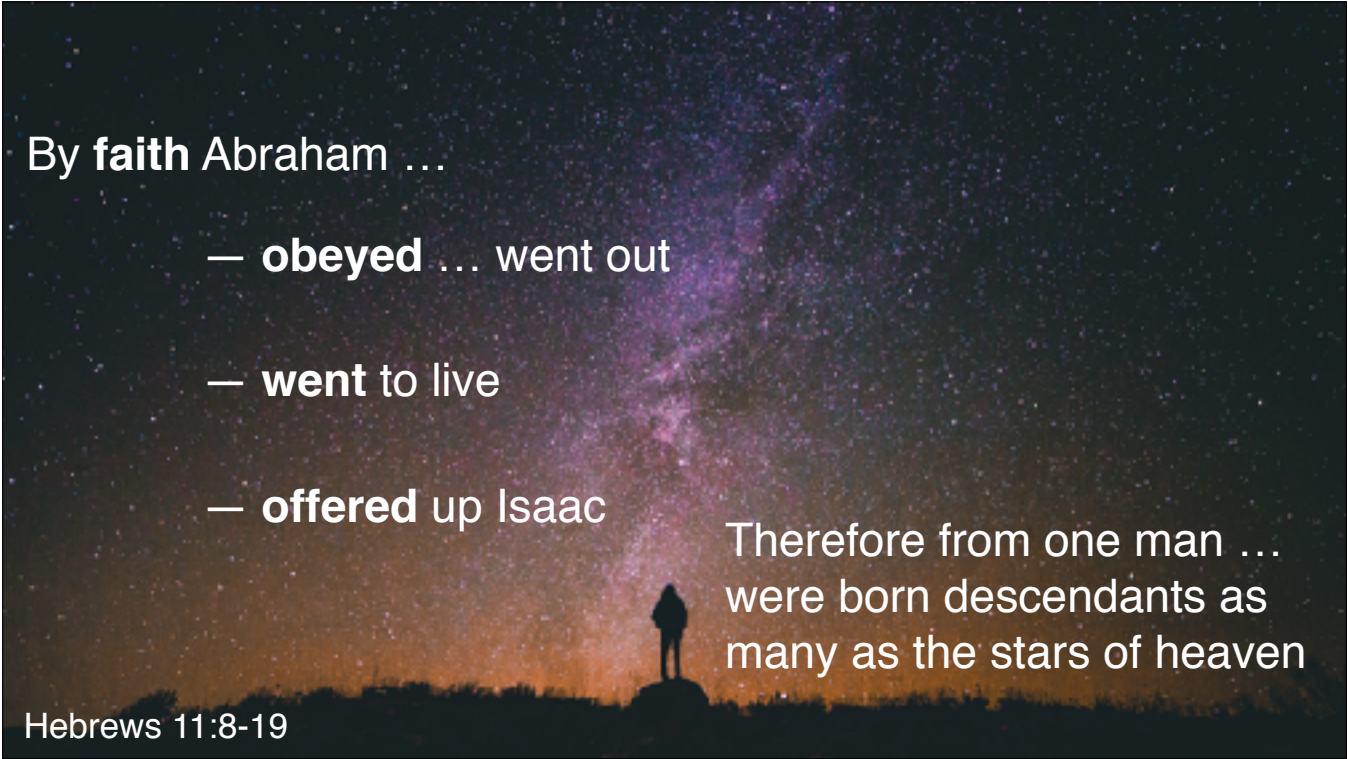
— **obeyed** ... went out

— **went** to live

— **offered** up Isaac

Hebrews 11:8-19

- 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.



By **faith** Abraham ...

— **obeyed** ... went out

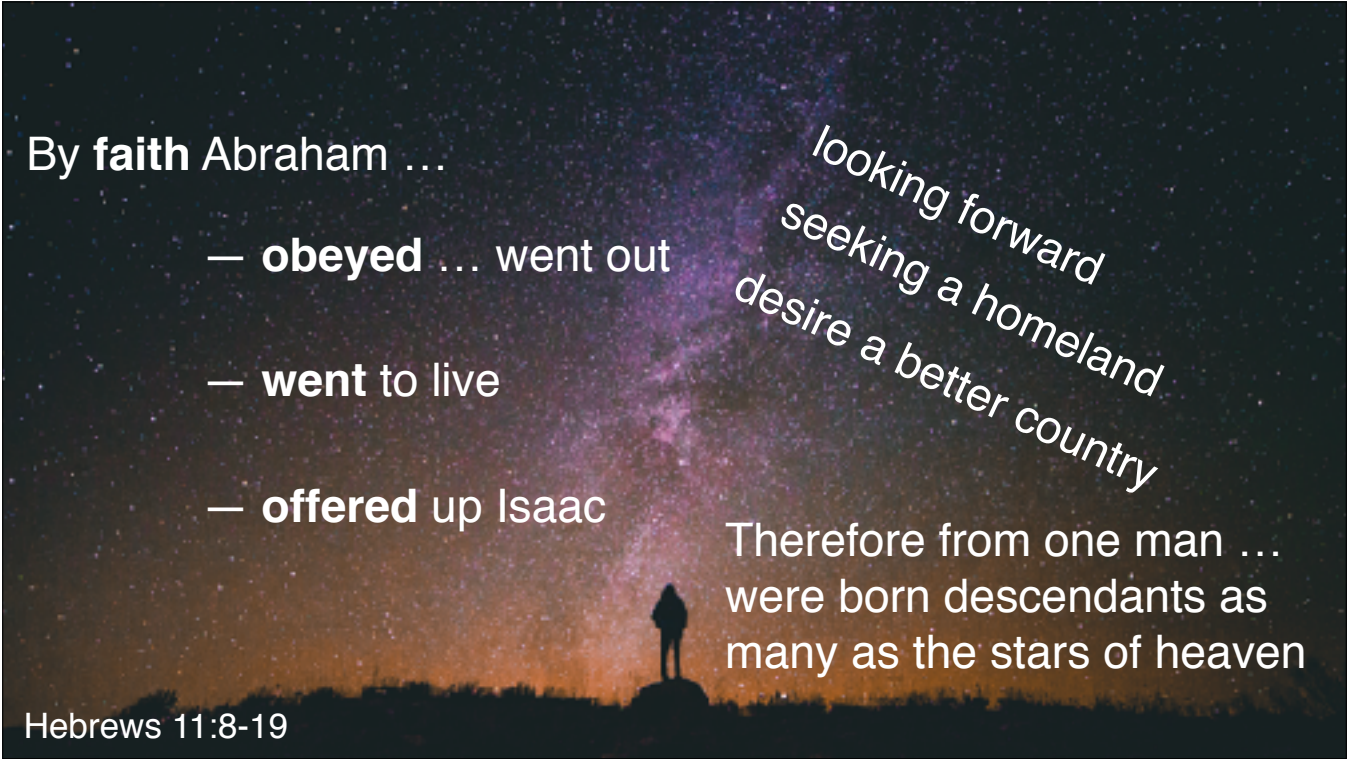
— **went** to live

— **offered** up Isaac

Therefore from one man ...
were born descendants as
many as the stars of heaven

Hebrews 11:8-19

- 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.
- 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.



By **faith** Abraham ...

— **obeyed** ... went out

— **went** to live

— **offered** up Isaac

*looking forward
seeking a homeland
desire a better country*

Therefore from one man ...
were born descendants as
many as the stars of heaven

Hebrews 11:8-19

- 10 For **he was looking forward to the city** that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
- 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that **they are seeking a homeland**.
- 16 But as it is, **they desire a better country**, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.



What do we hunger and thirst for?

What do we hunger and thirst for?



Happiness? World seeks ... through pleasure, possessions, power, prestige



Experiences?

Sports games, concerts, movies



Experiences? Christians... through emotionalism, ecstasy, meetings, service projects.

"I know your works" ... (5

But... abandoned first love (Ephesus)

tolerate Jezebel and teaching (Thyatira) (idolatry, adultery)

dead (reputation of being alive) (Sardis)

(Philadelphia)

neither cold nor hot (Laodicea)



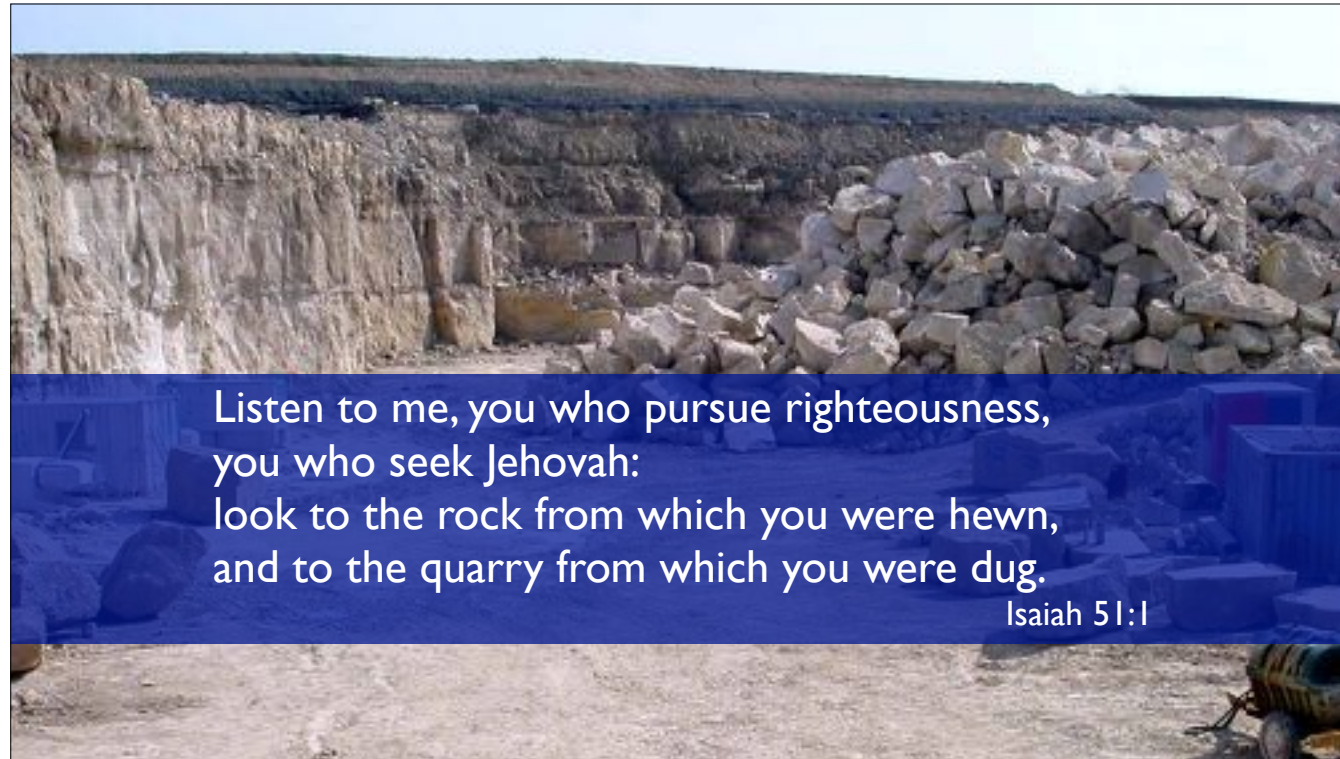
Bible? This was emp. when I was young, but the Word of God is only part of it, because it reveals God. Necessary, but not sufficient



Righteousness!

- 2 Timothy 4:8: Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

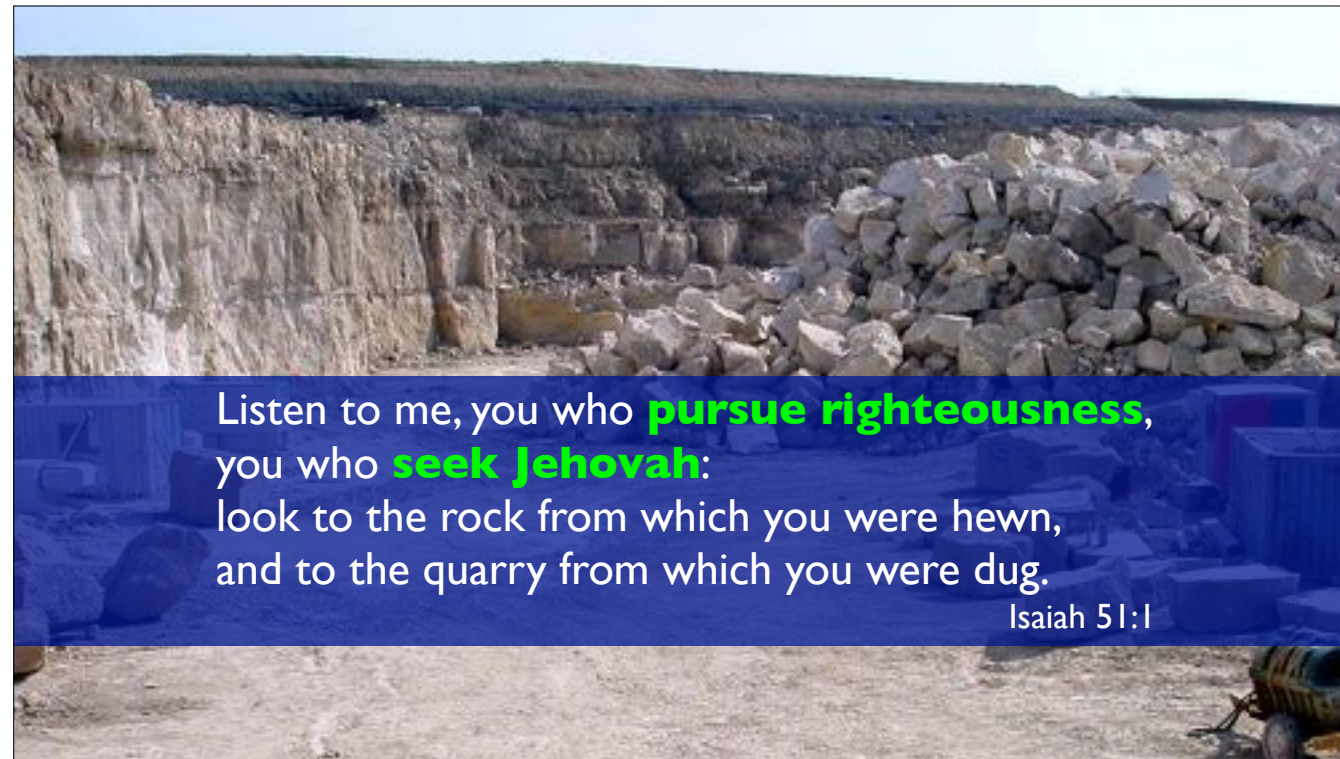
But... what is righteousness?



Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek Jehovah:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Isaiah 51:1

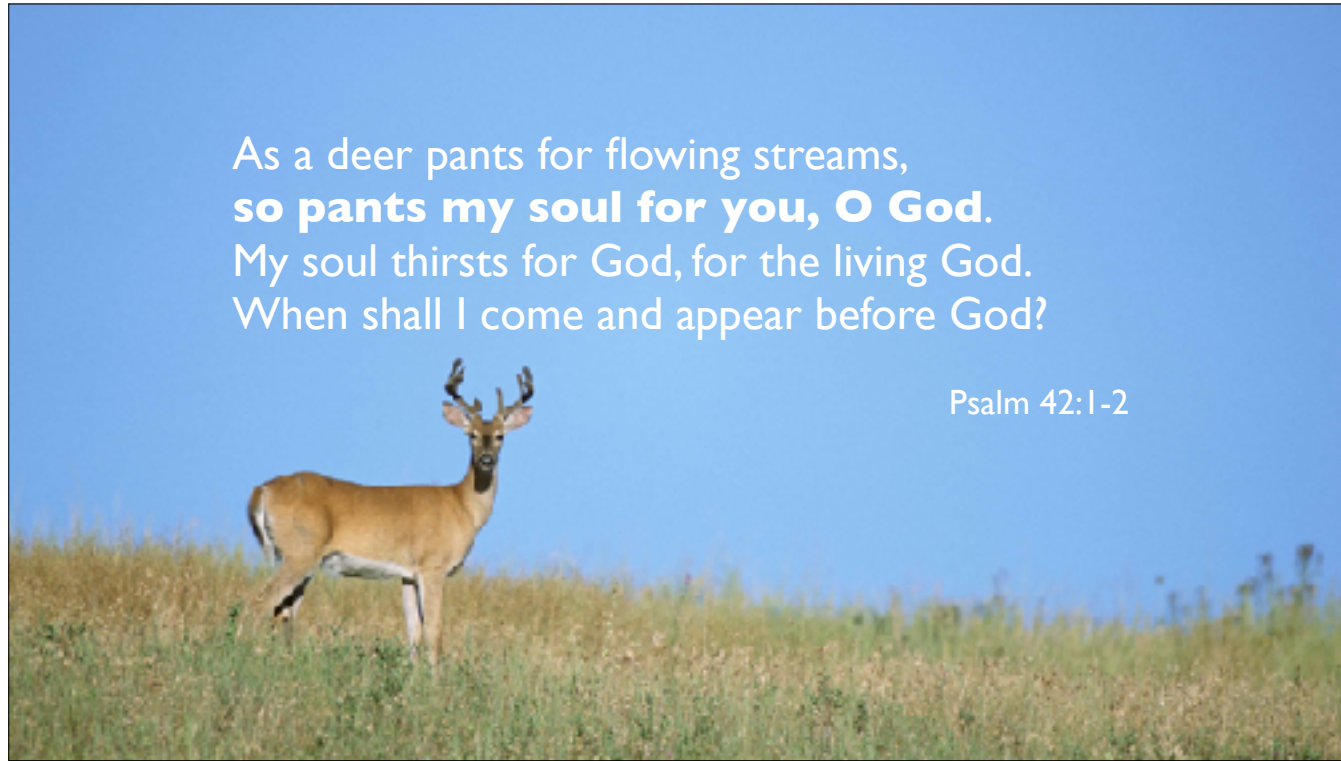
Isaiah 51:1: "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug



Pursue Righteousness closely connected with seeking Jehovah

As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?

Psalm 42:1-2

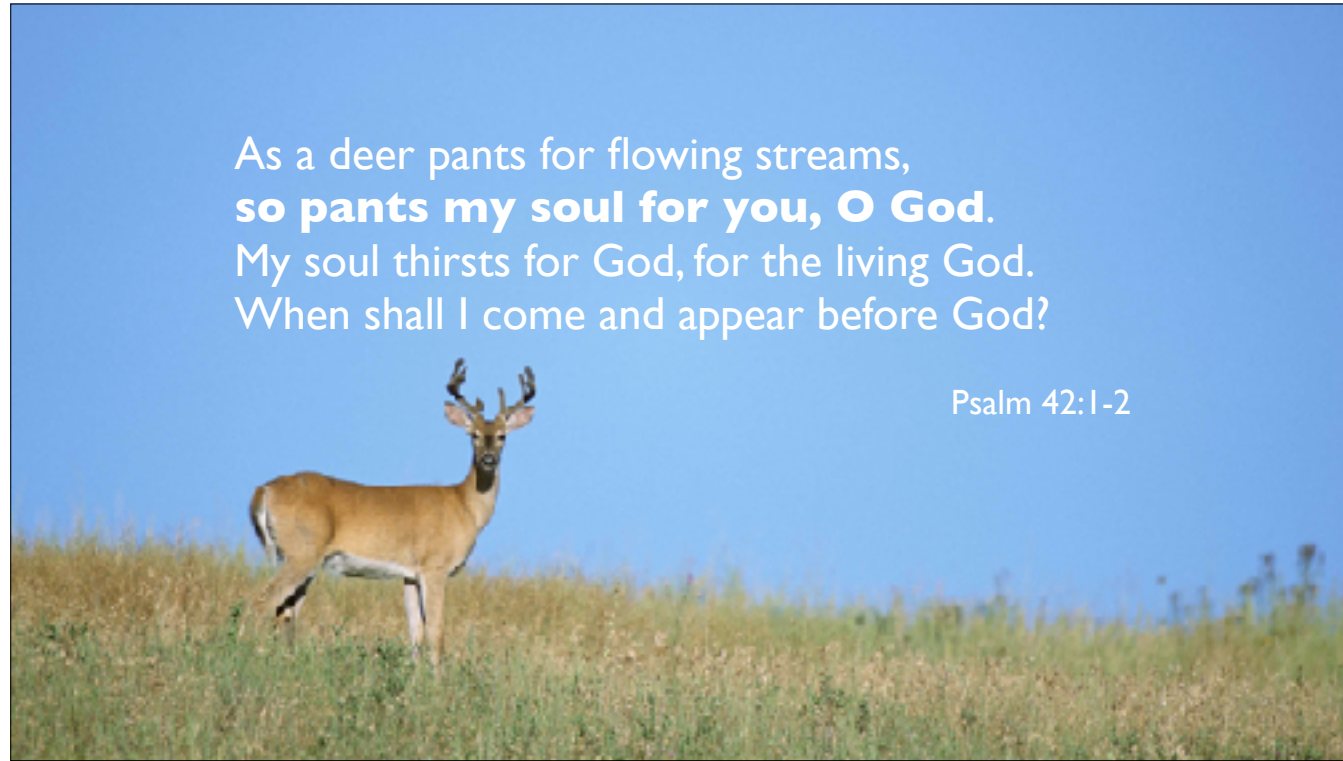


Psalm 42:1-2: As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

A deep desire for God and to be with Him.

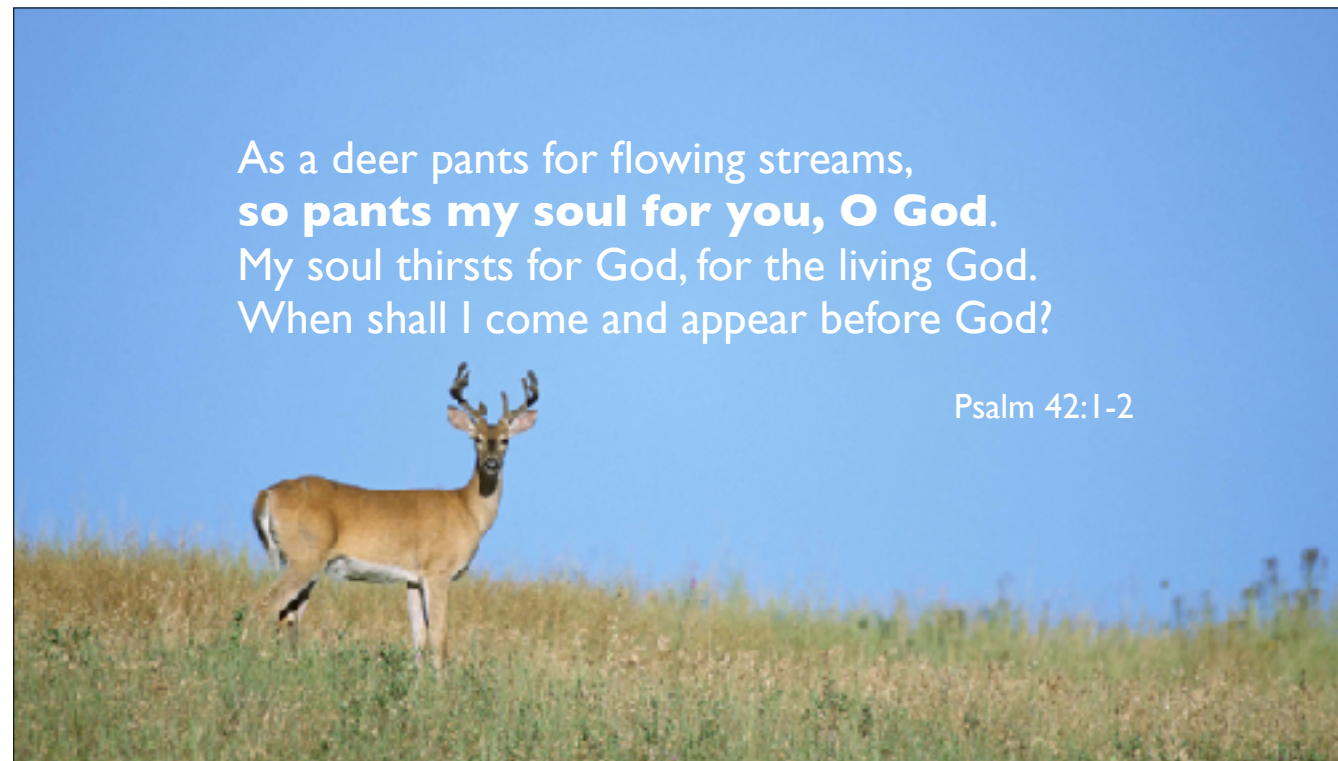
As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?

Psalm 42:1-2



A change of priorities.

Suddenly nothing compares to being in the very presence of God and I will exhaust myself seeking to be with my God.



As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?

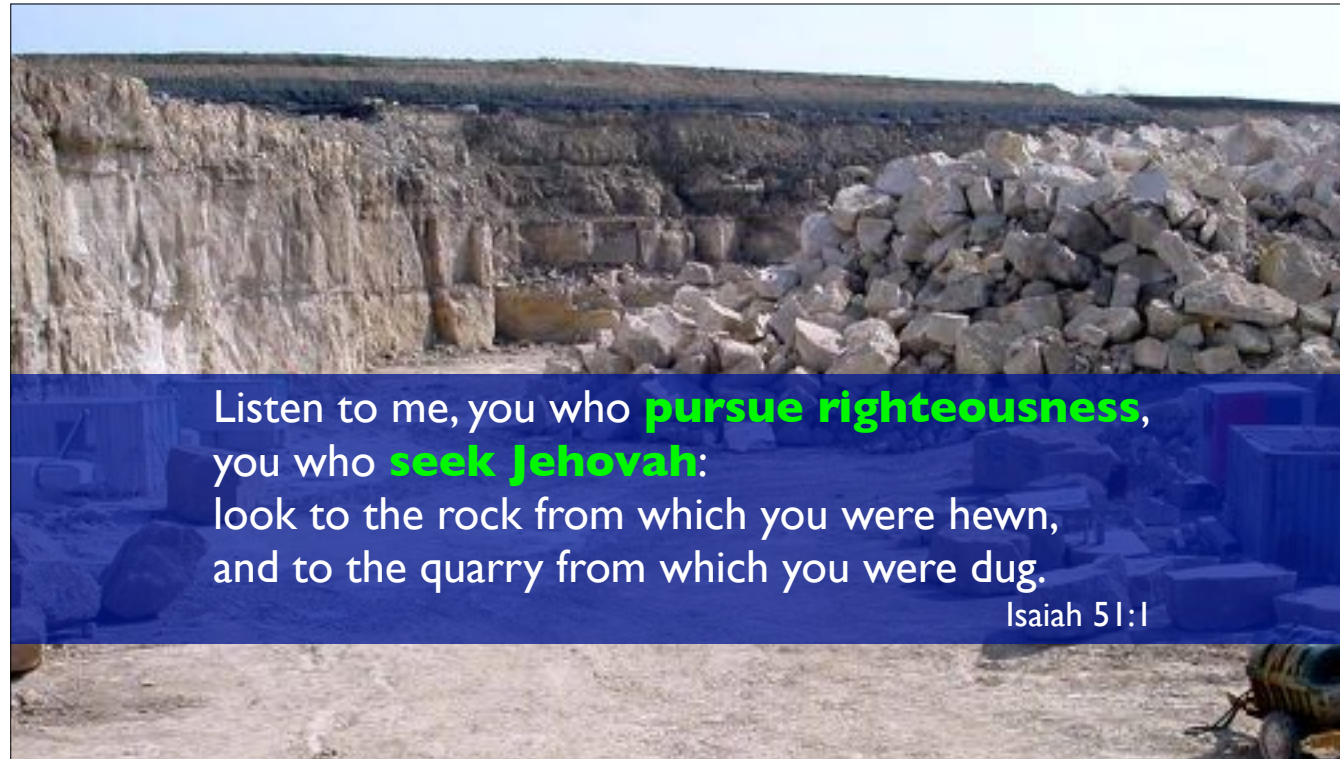
Psalm 42:1-2

Hunger and thirsting has two parts:

first the strong need for righteousness,

but then comes the soothing, refreshing, comfort of being filled: satisfaction.

Back to Is. 51.

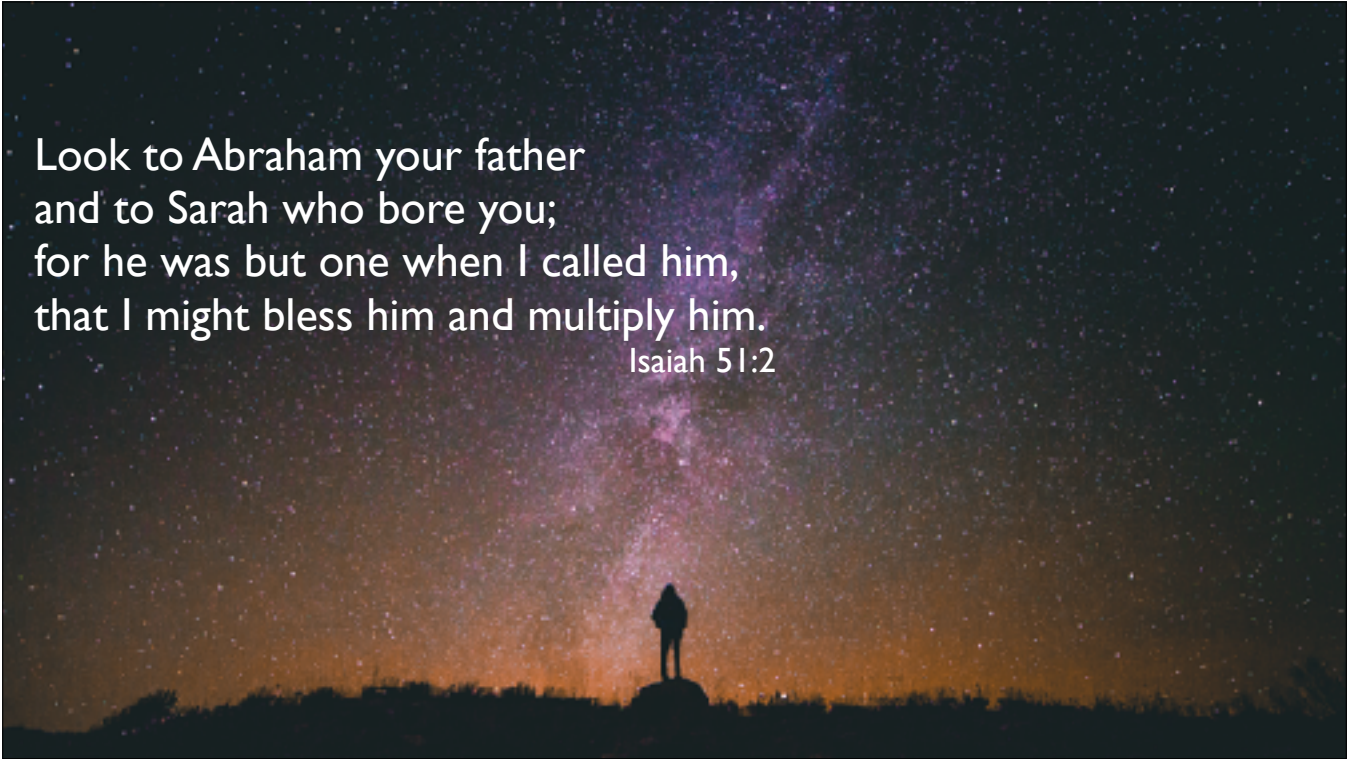


Listen to me, you who **pursue righteousness**,
you who **seek Jehovah**:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Isaiah 51:1

Apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Rocks from quarry are the same.

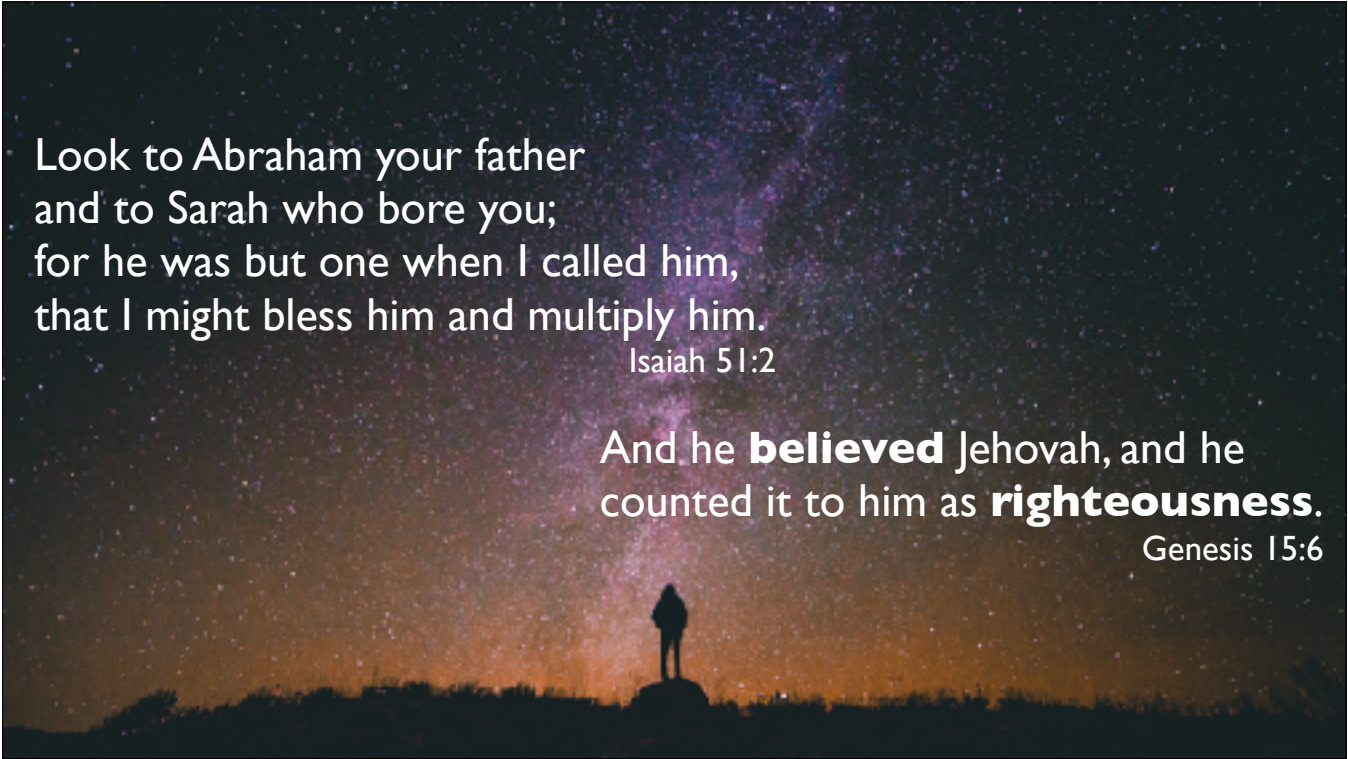


Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.
Isaiah 51:2

Isaiah 51:2: Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him

Abraham is their quarry, their origins

What learn from him?



Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.

Isaiah 51:2

And he **believed** Jehovah, and he
counted it to him as **righteousness**.

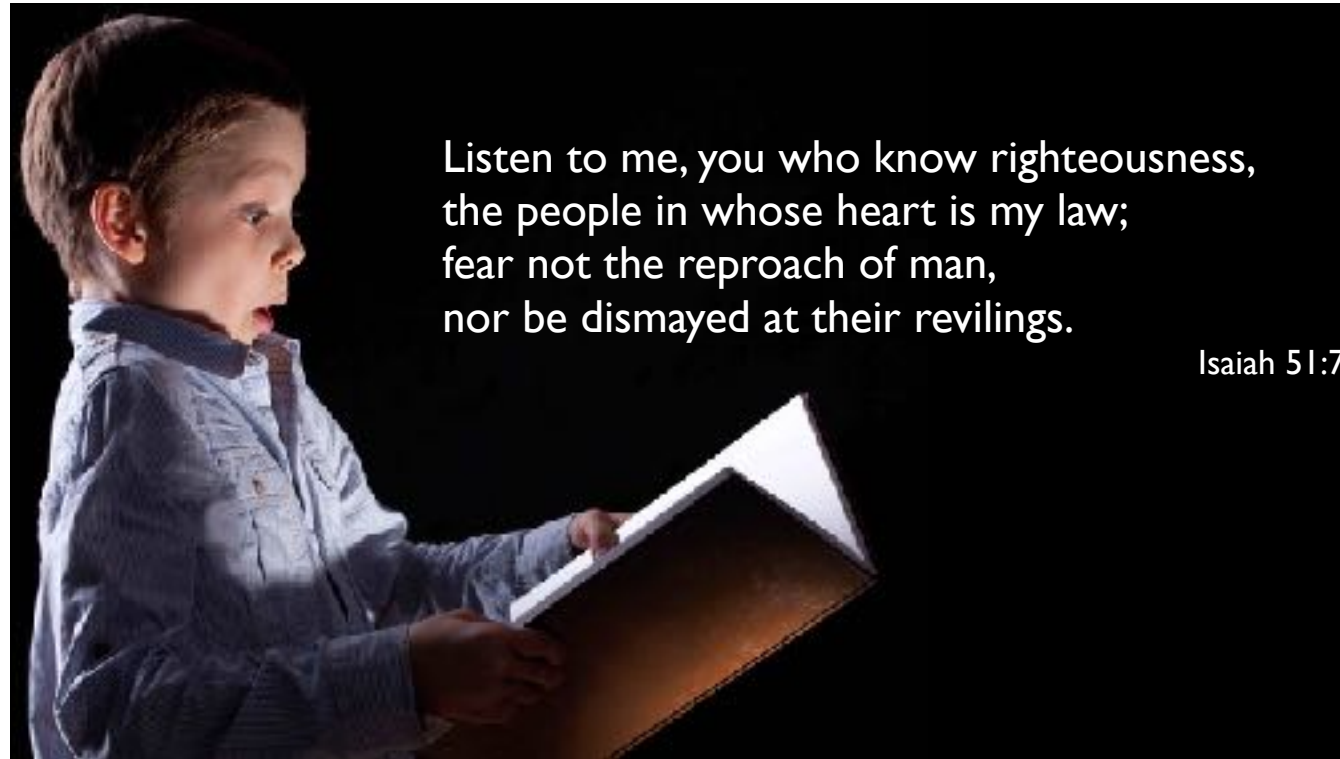
Genesis 15:6

Genesis 15:6: And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness

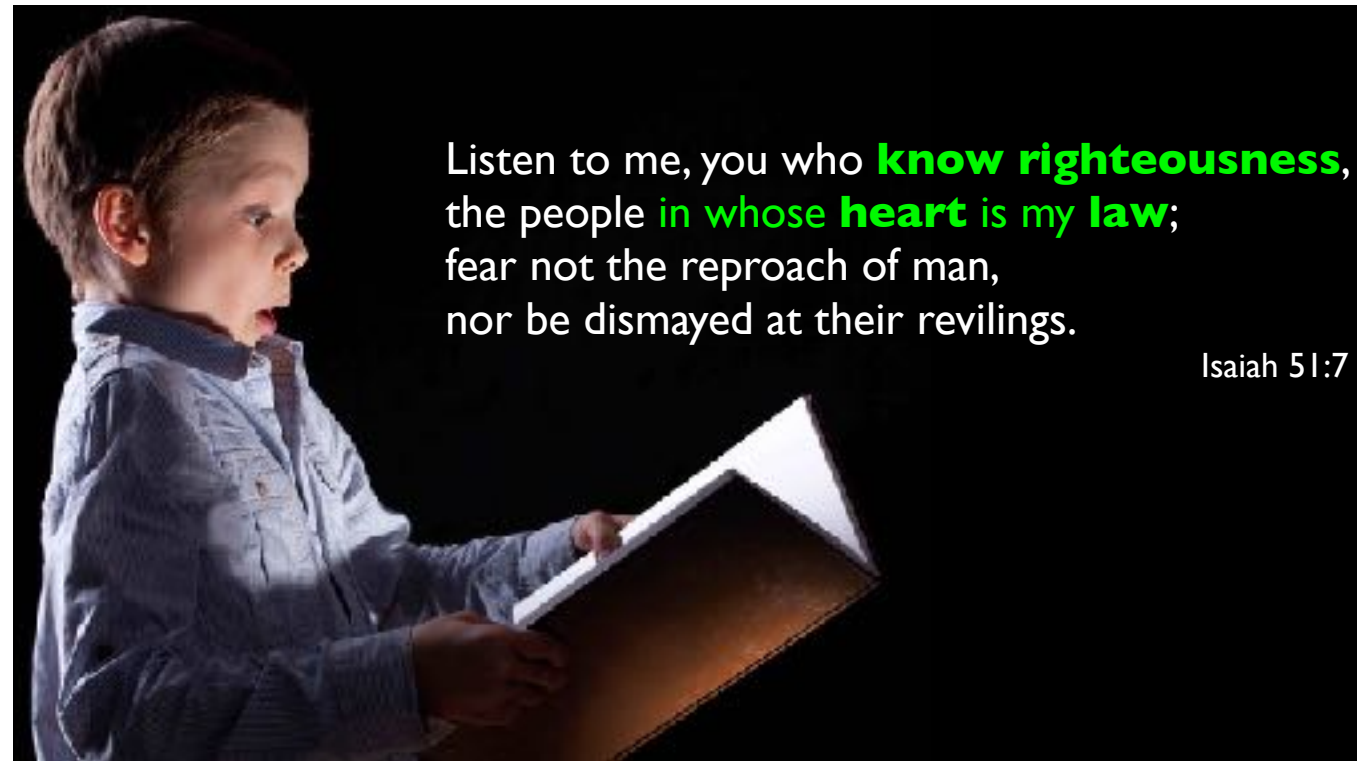
Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23

Righteousness begins with **belief** in God!

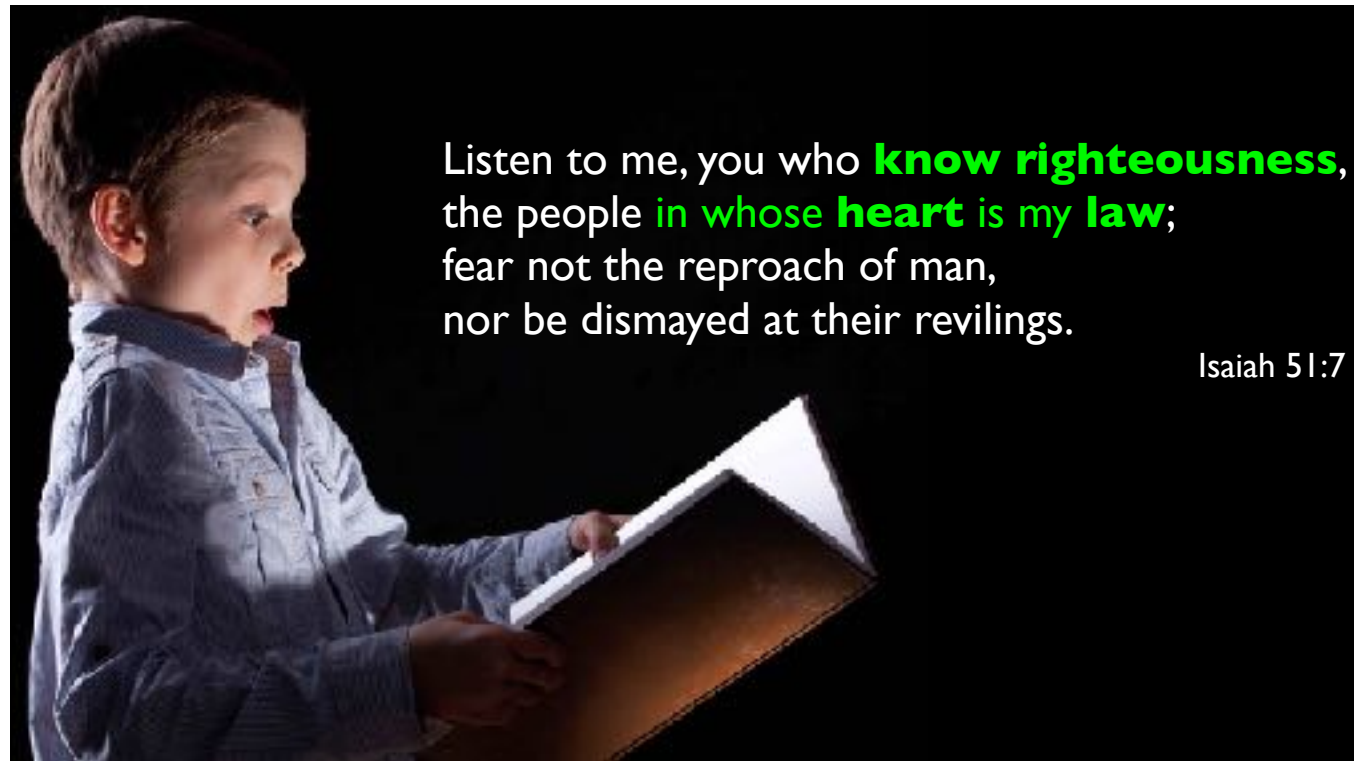
(Pharisees emphasized obedience for sake of obedience.)



7 “Listen to me, you who know righteousness,
the people in whose heart is my law;
fear not the reproach of man,
nor be dismayed at their revilings.

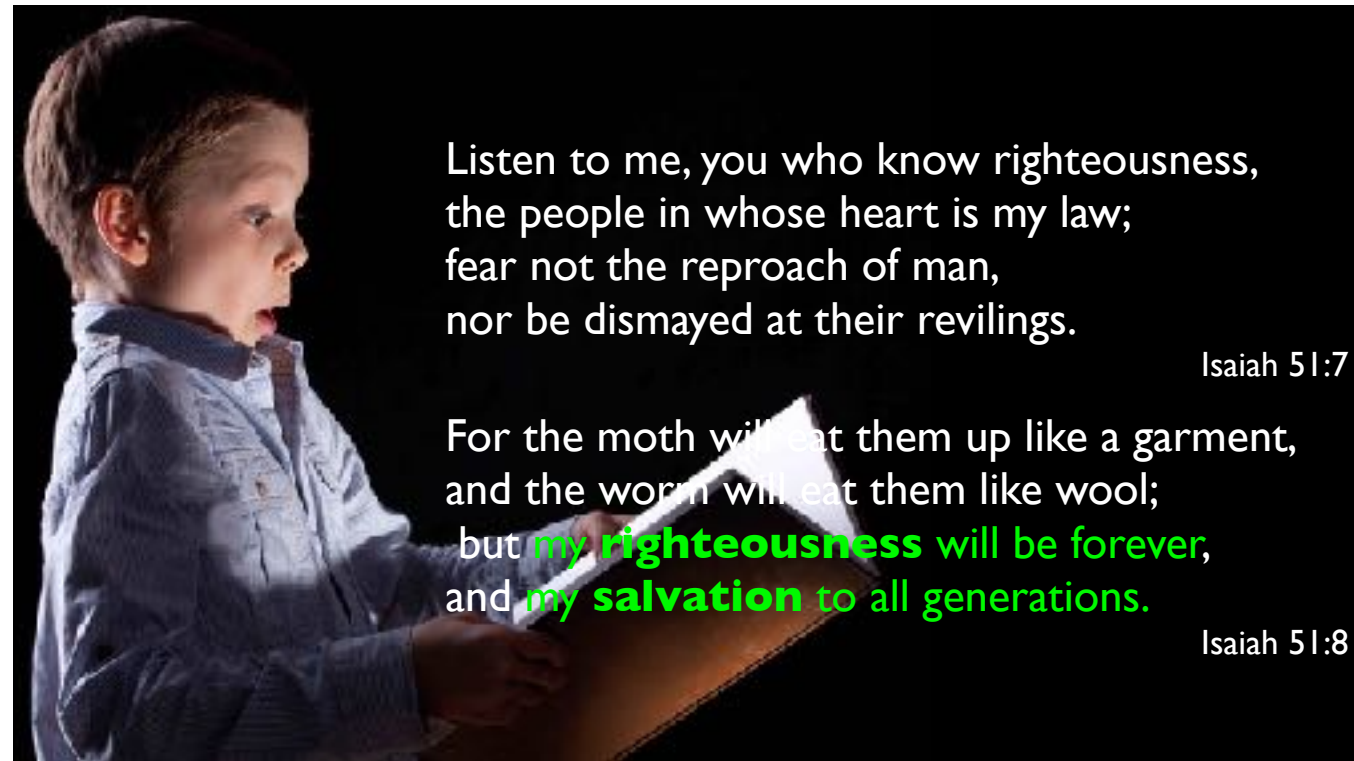


Know righteousness means knowing law, but more. Understanding of the law, it's purpose for us (good).



Law must be in heart.

Law is not just writings to be obeyed, but intended to help us be the people that God would want us to be (like Abraham!)



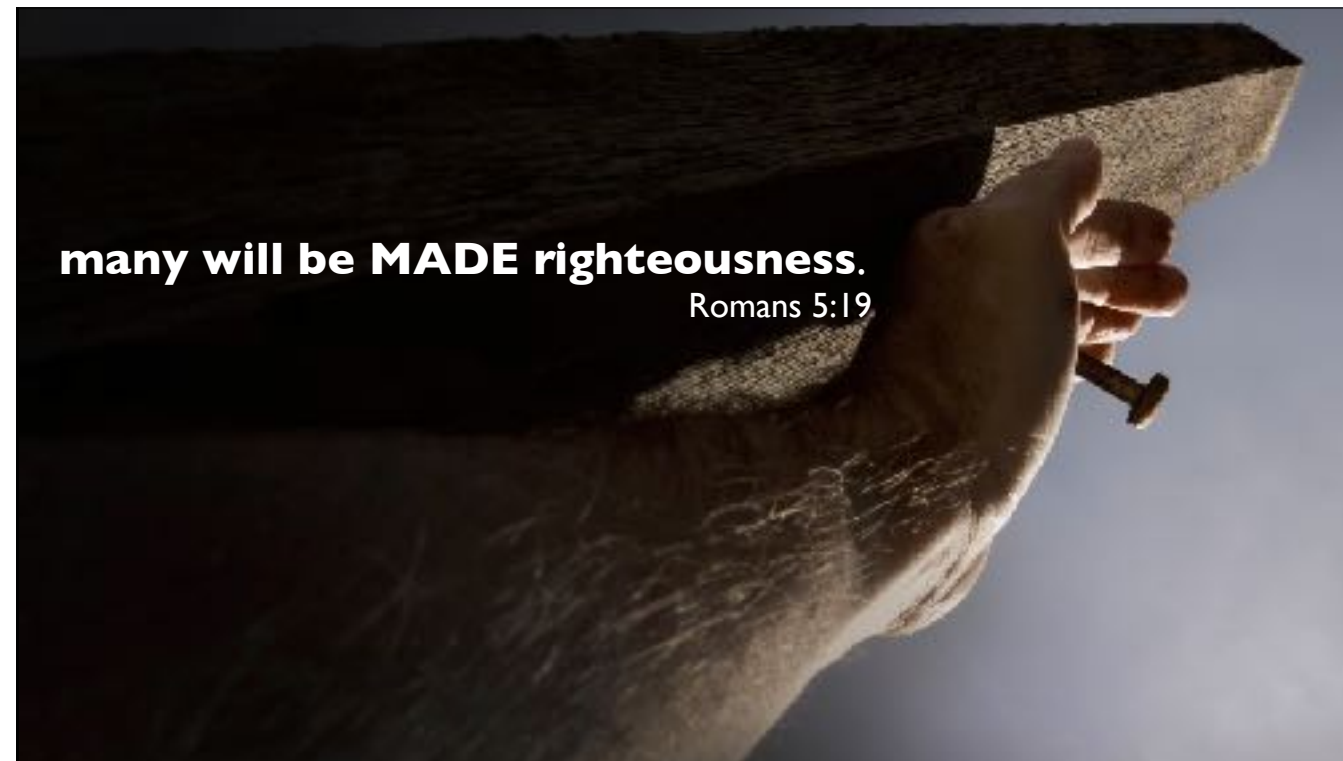
Listen to me, you who know righteousness,
the people in whose heart is my law;
fear not the reproach of man,
nor be dismayed at their revilings.

Isaiah 51:7

For the moth will eat them up like a garment,
and the worm will eat them like wool;
but my **righteousness** will be forever,
and my **salvation** to all generations.

Isaiah 51:8

8 For the moth will eat them up like a garment,
and the worm will eat them like wool;
but my righteousness will be forever,
and my salvation to all generations



“many will be made righteous” (Romans 5:19)

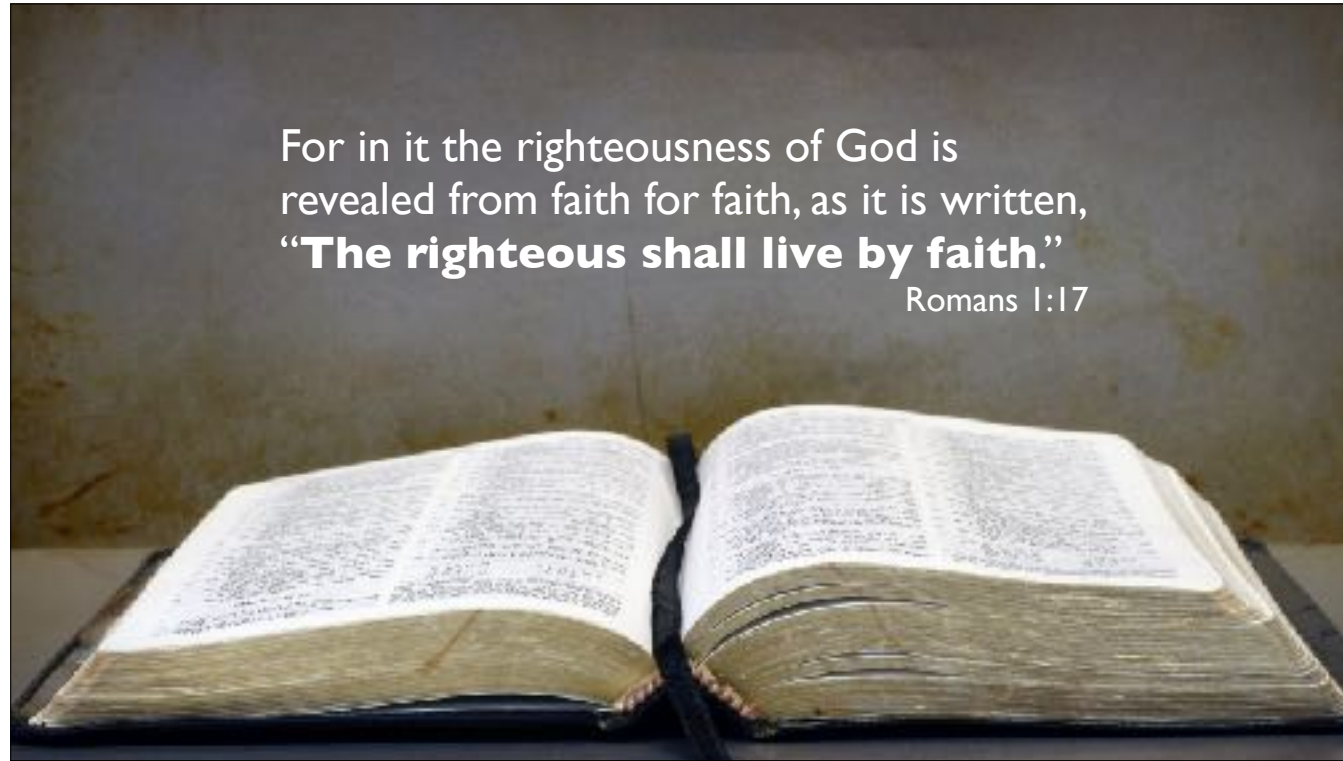


2 Corinthians 5:21: For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

more than just obedience to laws!

Who we are before Him.

For in it the righteousness of God is
revealed from faith for faith, as it is written,
“The righteous shall live by faith.”
Romans 1:17



Romans 1:16-17: 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 righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Clearly revealed in the gospel (we don’t need to guess or debate)

So that we can LIVE IT!

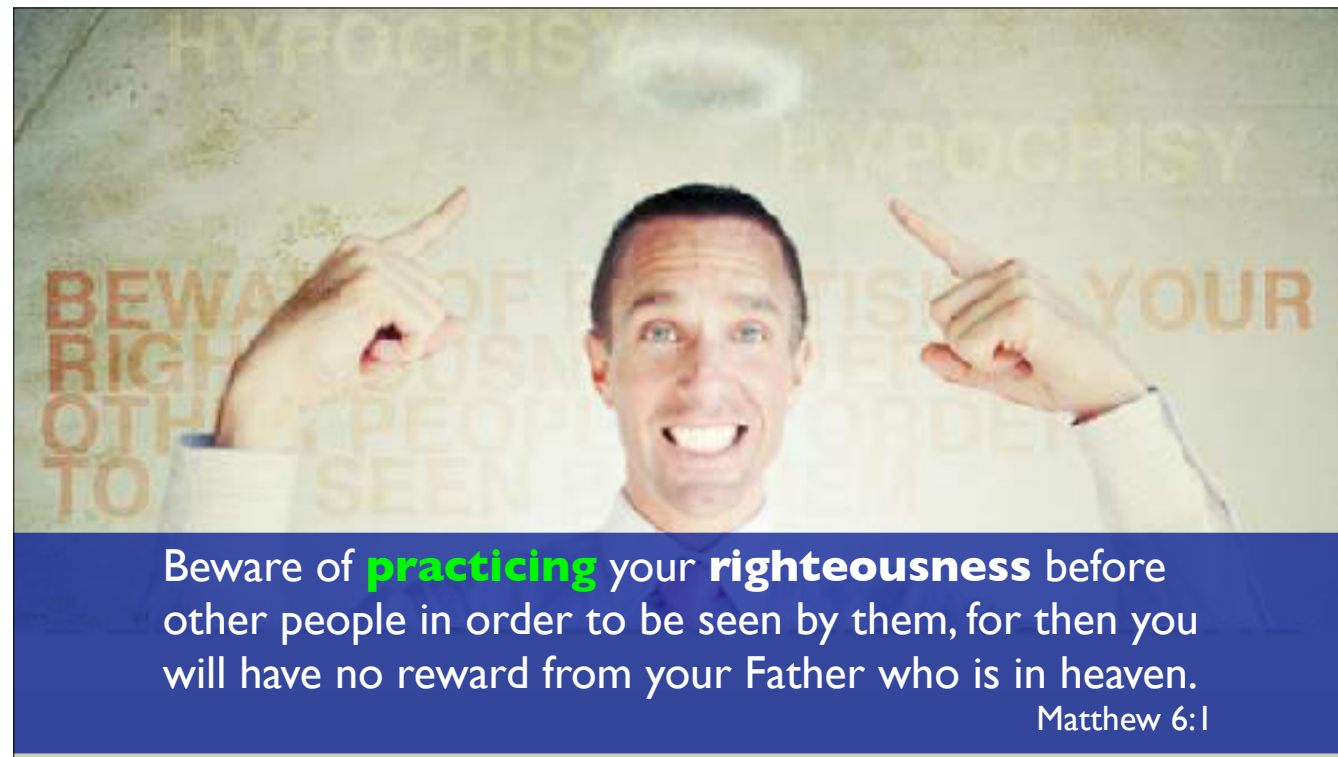


For I tell you, unless **your righteousness exceeds** that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20

Matthew 5:20: For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Romans 10:3-4: For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.



Matthew 6:1: "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Note Righteousness must be practiced! Do it.

Do it for the right reason and in the right ways!



But seek first the kingdom of God and **his righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

Matthew 6:33: But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Seek HIS righteousness - not your own.

The only way to know His righteousness is to study His Word (reveals his mind - 1 Cor. 2).



But seek first the kingdom of God and **his**
righteousness, and all these things will
be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

Read it to understand His righteousness, not justify your own.

Study to see changes you need to make, to overcome your own traditional understanding.

Meditate on it so that you live each according to His righteousness.



and to put on the new self, created after the likeness
of God in **true righteousness** and holiness

Ephesians 4:24

Ephesians 4:20-24: But that is not the way you learned Christ! — 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

What do we hunger and thirst for?

RIGHTEOUSNESS!





the crown of
righteousness
2 Timothy 4:8

RIGHTEOUSNESS!

What do we hunger and thirst for?

But... what is righteousness?

- 1) Seeking Jehovah
- 2) Believing in Jehovah
- 3) Law in heart
- 4) Desire to be like God (morally)



Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Due to my sin, my rebellion I know that something is missing in my life... Jesus provides salvation, and I need to long for this righteousness.

Righteousness is more than just a desire to do what is right. It is really about being the right person, having the right character, being like God.

Become righteous, live by faith, pursue the Lord, righteousness in heart.



Doing what is correct;
being one who is right

Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness:**
for they shall be satisfied.

What are you really longing for?

Examine your heart. your life. your actions.

Stop playing at righteousness; be righteous!



Henceforth there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day,
and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

- 2 Timothy 4:8: Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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What Do You Long For?

Matthew 5:6

Synopsis: The fourth aspect of the character of the citizen of the kingdom of heaven is that we desire righteousness. In this lesson, we'll focus on understanding what righteousness means.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."