

RIGHTEOUSNESS



WORKS

FAITH

**THE GOD WE WANT TO BE
IN RIGHT STANDING WITH
IS THE AWESOME GOD
WHO MADE THE UNIVERSE**





IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE
100 BILLION
GALAXIES IN THE UNIVERSE





THERE ARE
100 BILLION
STARS (LIKE OUR SUN) IN EVERY
GALAXY



HALF OF THEM
HAVE AN AVERAGE OF
5 PLANETS EACH



THAT'S
25 TRILLION
PLANETS



AN ESTIMATED
10 BILLION
PEOPLE EVER LIVED ON THE EARTH





THAT IS **10 GALAXIES**
AND **2.5 TRILLION PLANETS** PER
PERSON WHO EVER LIVED



... AND THE UNIVERSE CANNOT CONTAIN HIM

"But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth?
Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You.
2Ch 6:18

THE STAKES ARE HIGH



EVER

DEEP DOWN,
EVERYONE
WANTS TO BE RIGHT WITH
GOD

WE WANT TO BE RIGHTEOUS



THE



THE
ANCIENTS



EGYPT



wanted to be righteous by giving their gods gold

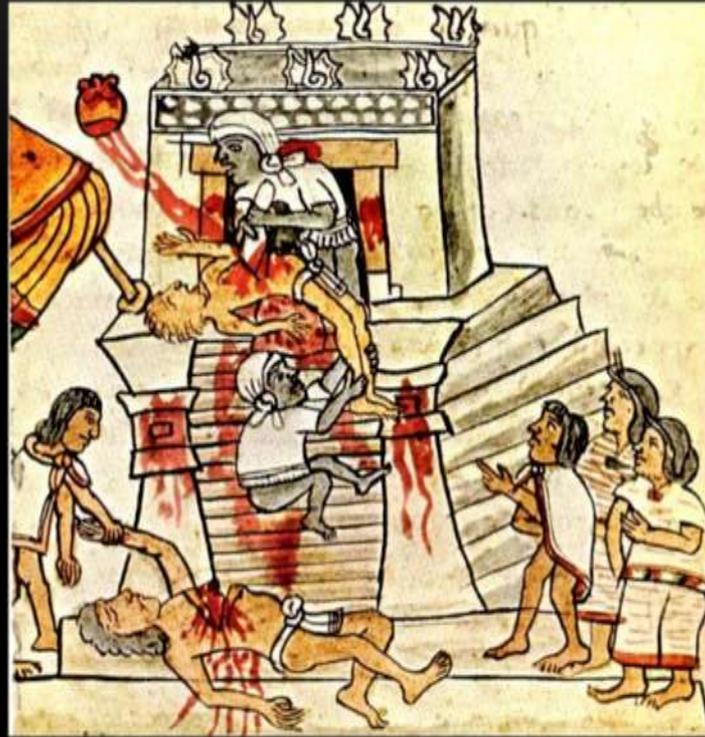
IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD COST \$5 BILLION TO BUILD THE GREAT PYRAMID TODAY

- **138 Pyramids** have been discovered in Egypt
- It works out to **690 Billion dollars**, or the cost of about 120,000 hospitals!

**The pharos beggared their people so they could be right with
their gods**

AZTECS

THE
AZTECS



wanted to be righteous by giving their gods **blood**

- During of a four day festival, the Aztecs sacrificed 80,400 prisoners to their gods to make sure that the sun would rise each day.
- **That is 14 every minute for 4 days!**

The Aztecs killed their people to be right with their bloodthirsty
gods

THE

THE JEWS



wanted to be righteous by **keeping the law**

- *Deu 30:15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, **to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments**, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; **and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.***
- The rabbis expanded on the 10 laws of Exodus - resulting in the Talmud which has a total of 613 laws.
- The Jewish people tried to keep the law to be right with God

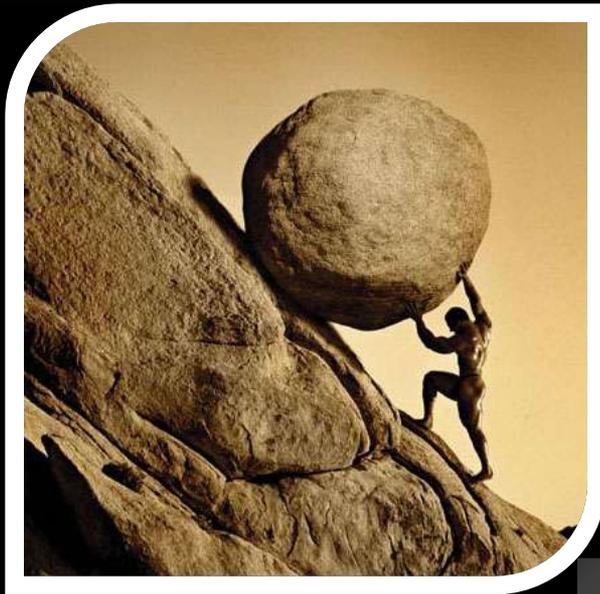
WHAT IS **RIGHTEOUSNESS**?



Sinfulness or unrighteousness (the opposite of righteousness) separates us from
God.

Righteousness removes the wall of separation.

WHAT MAKES US **RIGHTEOUS**?



Works of the law

or



FAITH?

WHAT IS THE LAW?

- It is **not only the 10 commandments**
- The whole law is the *Mitzvot* - or **613 laws**
 - There are **365** negative commandments (**you must not**) corresponding to the number of days in a solar year
 - There are **248** positive commandments (**you must**) ascribed to the number of bones and significant organs in the human body

UNDER THE LAW YOU GET **FORGIVENESS** ONLY BY:

- shedding of the blood of a **sacrifice**
- the animal has to be killed **by you at the door of the tabernacle** before the Lord
- **the priest** will put some the **blood on the horns** and pour the rest at the base of the altar
- he will burn the sacrifice on the **altar**
- The problem: **none of this can be done today** – *there is no earthly temple*



INTERESTING LAWS

- Deu 14:6 you may eat every animal with cloven hooves, having the hoof split into two parts, *and that chews the cud* (no bacon)
- 14:10 ... whatever does not have fins and scales you shall not eat; it *is* unclean for you (no prawns)
- Deu 21:18 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father ... *then all the men of his city shall stone him to death*
- Deu 22:5 "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment (no pants for women)
- Lev 19:27 Men must not shave their beards with a razor (all men must have beards)
- Lev 19:28 *Not to tattoo the skin*
- Deut 31:19 *Each male must write a Torah scroll*
- Lev 19:30 Sacrificial laws, showing reverence to the Temple, Num 18:2 To guard the Temple area, Num 18:5 Not to leave the Temple unguarded and many others (none of this can be done today – there is no earthly temple)

ALL THIS WORK MADE NO ONE RIGHTEOUS



Rom 9:31 but **Israel**, pursuing the law of righteousness, **has not attained to the law of righteousness.**

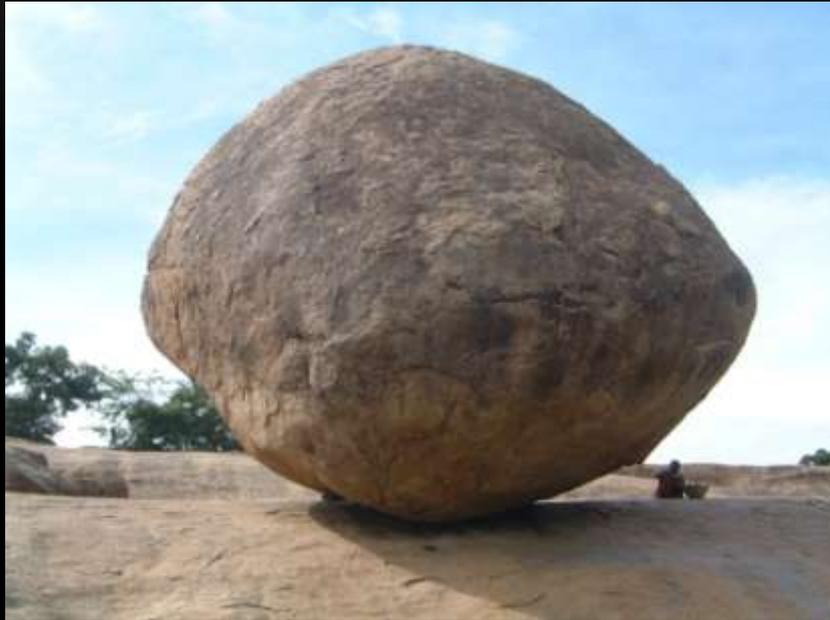
SURPRISED?



you are not alone ...

Rom 10:16 *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "**Lord, who has believed our report?**"*

A STONE THAT MAKES THEM STUMBLE ...



Paul, speaking of righteousness by faith:

*Rom 9:32 ... they did not seek it by faith, but by the works of the law.
For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.*

WHY DO WE STUMBLE OVER RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH?

- We are naturally **legalistic**
- **We like a list** of laws to keep
- We are **naturally rebellious and independent**
- **We like to be in control**
- We hate admitting that **we are dependent on God**
- **We have to submit** to His righteousness
- **We don't like it that our works become a liability**
– not something to glory about



HOW DO I GET RIGHTEOUS THEN?

By the law? Nope.

- *Rom 3:20 ... by the deeds of the law
no flesh will be justified in His sight*

also

- *Mat 5:20 ... unless your righteousness exceeds
the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees,
you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven*

and

- *Gal 2:21 if righteousness comes through the law,
then Christ died in vain*



Even the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees - who spent their whole lives in the temple pursuing righteousness - **is not enough**

WE BECOME RIGHTEOUS BY **FAITH**
(THAT IS TRUSTING IN GOD'S ABILITY)
TO MAKE US **RIGHTEOUS**



*... now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed ... the righteousness of God,
through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe*

Rom 3:21

... NOT OUR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Php 3:4-7 If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, **I more so**: 1) circumcised the eighth day, 2) of the stock of Israel, 3) of the tribe of Benjamin, 4) a Hebrew of the Hebrews; 5) concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6) concerning zeal, persecuting the church; 7) concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
- Php 3:8-9 **I count them as rubbish**, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness**, which *is* from the law, **but that which is through faith in Christ**, the righteousness which is from God by faith

If Paul's righteousness was not enough
– **how can you think that yours will be?**

HOW **EXACTLY** DOES IT WORK?



- **We need it before anything else**
*Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God **and his righteousness***
- **We get it through faith**
*Rom 3:22 ... **the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.***
- **He does everything for us**
*Tit 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but **according to His mercy He saved us***
- **It is a gift**
*Rom 5:17 ... those who receive abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life*
- **It is complete: it is God's righteousness**
*2Co 5:21 For He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

It is more than the *absence* of evil and guilt.
It is a *positive* good: **God not only declares us innocent, but *righteous***

THE POOR ARE RICH

Mat 5:3 "Blessed are the *poor in spirit*, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Greek: *ptokhos*: (to crouch; a beggar (as cringing), a pauper: *the absolute condition of public poverty*, the condition of being a beggar; the practice of begging)

- We have to come to terms with *our utter helplessness to save ourselves and be completely dependent on Him*

Mat 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, *Except ye be converted, and become as little children*, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven

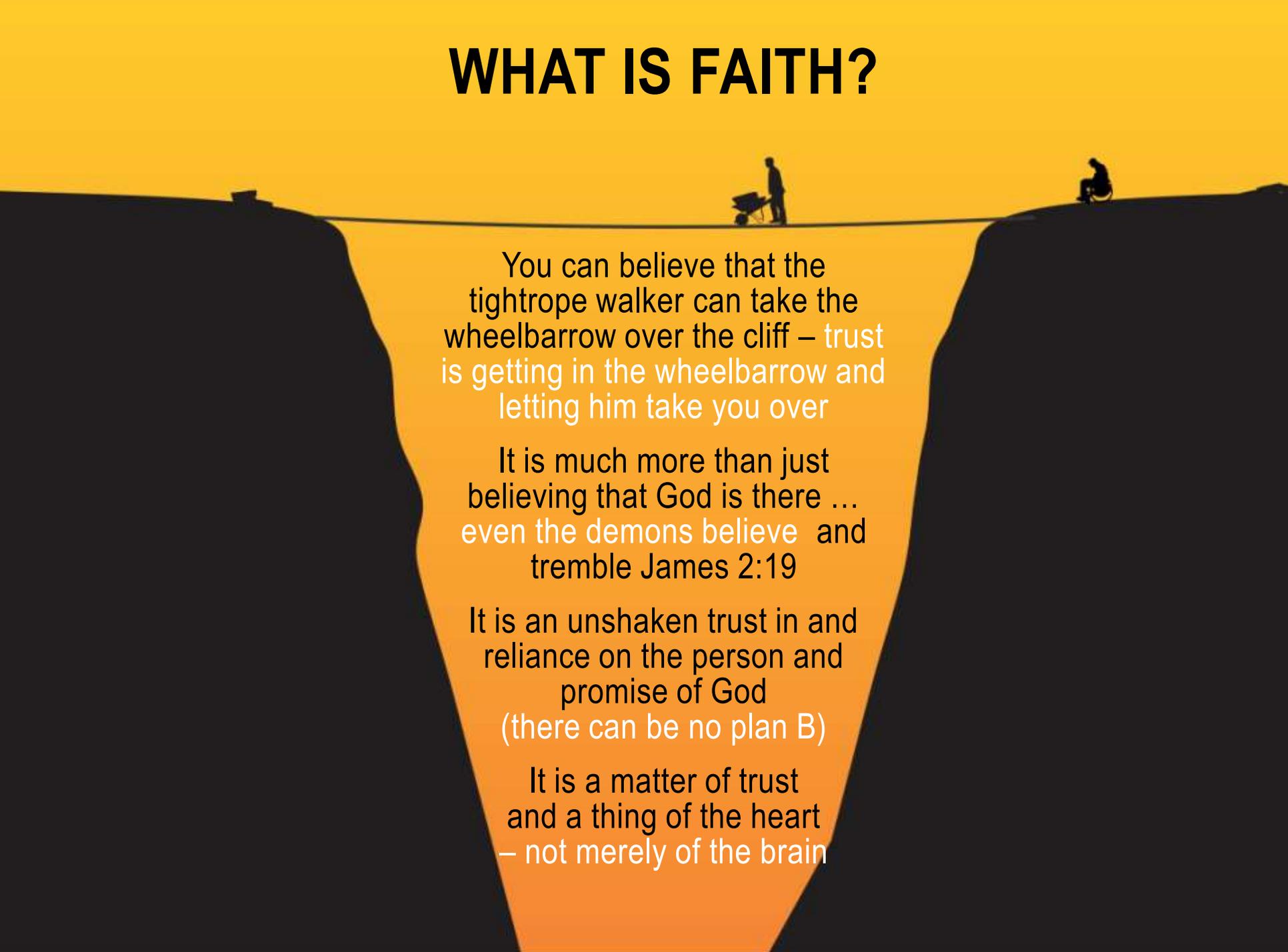
- Suddenly *this* makes more sense:

Mat 1:31 "Assuredly, I say to you that *tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you*"

The ones who know their own unrighteousness, helplessness and dependence on God enter

Those who think they are ok stay behind

WHAT IS FAITH?



You can believe that the tightrope walker can take the wheelbarrow over the cliff – trust is getting in the wheelbarrow and letting him take you over

It is much more than just believing that God is there ... even the demons believe and tremble James 2:19

It is an unshaken trust in and reliance on the person and promise of God
(there can be no plan B)

It is a matter of trust and a thing of the heart – not merely of the brain

SO I DO NOT HAVE TO KEEP THE LAW ANYMORE?



Not so fast, speedy ...

Mat 5:18 For assuredly, I say to you,
till heaven and earth pass away,
one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

BUT NOW: THE CRUCIAL BIT:



Rom 10:4 ... *Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

IMPORTANT:

NOT THE END OF THE LAW
BUT

**THE END OF TRYING TO BECOME RIGHTEOUS
THROUGH THE LAW**

Rom 10:4 ... *Christ is the end of the law for righteousness* to everyone who believes.

SO THE LAW REMAINS

**BUT WE CAN NEVER
BECOME RIGHTEOUS BY IT**

*Rom 3:20 Therefore **by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified** (made righteous) in His sight*

TRUSTING IN WORKS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL GET YOU IN **SERIOUS** TROUBLE



- Rom 4:15 ... *the law brings about wrath*
- Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law *are under the curse* (because the law has been broken and a penalty is due)
- Gal 5:3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised (tries to obtain righteousness by the law) *that he is a debtor to keep the whole law*
- Jas 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, *he is guilty of all*

THERE ARE CHRISTIAN “LAWS” TOO:

- Praying 2 hours a day
- Reading your Bible
- Going to Church
- Preaching
- Fasting
- Giving
- Teaching

**They are all good things –
until you begin to believe they make you righteous**

Luk 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess ...



A VERY IMPORTANT DISTINCTION

1. Keeping the law to try
and generate my own
righteousness
(the Pharisee option)

2. Doing good works in
response to my being
made righteous
(the Grace option)

MY RIGHTEOUS STANDING WITH GOD (ME BEING RIGHTEOUS)

- All His doing
- He gives me His righteousness
- He declares me righteous
- who can then condemn me?

Col 3:12 (we are) the elect of God, holy and beloved

ME PRACTICING RIGHTEOUSNESS (MY RIGHTEOUS ACTS)

- Living in love, generosity and humility
- My response to being righteous
- not an effort to *become* righteous

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works

We need both

Tit 1:16 They profess to know God,
but in works they deny Him .

Tit 3:8 ... be careful to maintain good works.

Jas 2:20 ... faith without works is dead

1Jn 3:7 ... practice righteousness is
righteous, just as He is righteous.



HOW TO CHECK IF YOU ARE TRYING TO BE RIGHTEOUS BY WORKS

You believe that if you do not do certain things, God will reject you	Frantic performance and anxiety
You are not honest with yourself	You are self-righteous ,deceived and judgmental – ask your wife/husband ;-)
You believe you are more “spiritual” or deserving than others	Certain proof that you think you have earned something from God by what you do – ask your wife/husband ;-)
An area of your life is constantly draining, difficult and does not glorify God	You may be suffering the consequences of having broken the law while trusting in it for righteousness (it’s like sawing off the branch on which you are sitting)
You feel more righteous (and accepted) after you have done certain things	Like reading the bible, praying, fasting or witnessing



When
we

F E A R

WORKS of the LAW

Trusting in rules and regulations for
righteousness

Rom 10:5 For Moses writes about the righteousness
which is of the law, "the man who does those things
shall live by them



Failure to perfectly keep the law



Judgment



Penalty

Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law
are under the curse; for it is written, **cursed is
everyone who does not continue in all things which
are written in the book of the law**

FAITH in God

Trusting in God for His Gift of
righteousness

2Co 5:21 For He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin
to be sin for us, that we might become the
righteousness of God in Him.



Failure to perfectly keep the law



Grace



Forgiveness

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and
just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from
all unrighteousness**

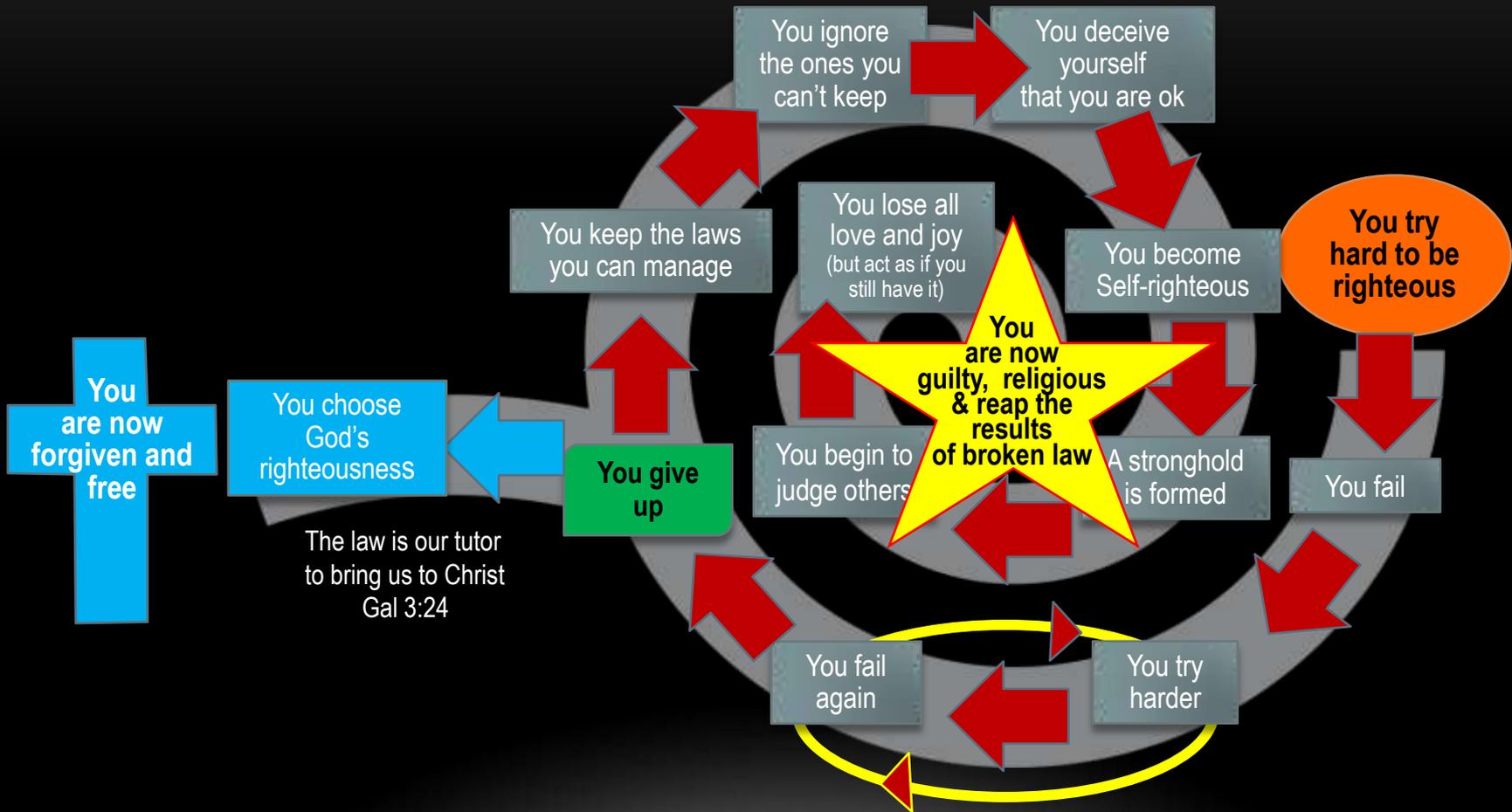


SATAN'S LIE IS THE TRAP:
GOD WILL ONLY RESPOND
IF YOU DO A DEAL WITH HIM

BUT NOTHING YOU CAN DO
CAN MAKE YOU RIGHTEOUS

NO DEAL

THE MAKING OF A SON OR A PHARISEE



I'M CAUGHT.

HOW CAN I GET OUT OF THE SPIRAL?

1. Ask forgiveness

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

2. Reject relying on your own good works and accept His gift of righteousness

3. Every time you catch yourself trusting in works, repent and cast your hope on Jesus

4. Rewrite on your heart that you are righteous, accepted and loved

KNOW

Choose to believe God
and **KNOW** that you are righteous
and 100% accepted

GOD DOES IT PERFECTLY

- Our righteousness not through the effort of a man: God does it Himself
*Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved***
- We are beloved
*1Th 1:4 **knowing**, beloved brethren, your election by God*
- We are elected
*1Jn 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life***
- We have to accept God's word about of us - and reject our own about ourselves

**We can only KNOW
if we truly believe what He says
and write it forever on your heart**

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Without ***KNOWING***
that I am declared righteous and
accepted:

I CAN NEVER PRAY WITH FAITH
(WHY WOULD HE LISTEN?)



I WILL AVOID GOD
(BECAUSE HE WANTS TO PUNISH ME)



I WILL BELIEVE SATAN'S LIES ABOUT ME
(HE IS THE ACCUSER OF THE BRETHERN)



I WILL NOT DARE ASK FOR BLESSING
(WHY WOULD HE GIVE IT?)



I CAN NEVER HAVE HOPE

(WHAT IS THERE TO HOPE FOR – MORE FAILURE AND REJECTION?)



I CAN NEVER HAVE JOY

(WHAT IS THERE TO BE JOYFUL ABOUT – I AM NOT ACCEPTED)



I CAN NEVER HAVE PEACE
(HAVE I *REALLY* DONE ENOUGH?)



WITHOUT THE COMFORT OF **KNOWING**
I WILL FIND OTHER COMFORTERS



I BECOME SELF-RIGHTEOUS AND KEEP THE LAWS I CAN MANAGE:



- I do not do the visible and obvious
 - I do not **sleep around**
 - **Steal**
 - **Get drunk**
 - **Use drugs**
 - **Smoke**
 - **Watch pornography** on the internet

- BUT I DO THE INVISIBLE

- I **lust**
- I **envy and judge** others
- I am **proud**
- I secretly **distrust Him**
- I am **self-righteous**
- I am **selfish**
- I am **ungrateful**



I ALSO **DO NOT DO** THE MOST IMPORTANT

- I do not love the Lord with all my heart
- I do not love my neighbor as myself



I BEGIN TO CONDEMN OTHERS

- I keep the easy-to-spot laws and ignore the others which I cannot keep (**self-deception**)
- I then judge others who do not keep the laws that I keep (**the hallmark of the Pharisee**)



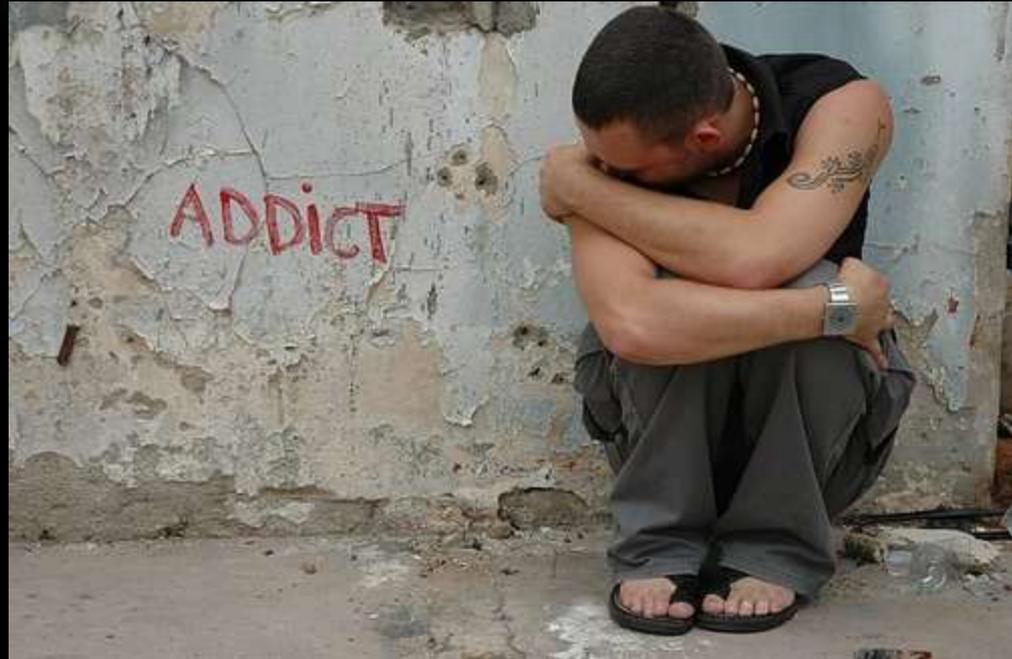
I LOOK FOR ACCEPTANCE FROM OTHERS



- I have a constant hunger for acceptance from the pastor or leaders
- I long to be consulted and respected

I FIND COMFORT IN ADDICTIONS

- **Substance** abuse
- **Sexual** addictions
- **Approval** addictions
- **Work** addiction



I DEVELOP EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS

- I stress/worry
- I dislike myself
- I become anxious
- I get depressed



GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS *ALL* THE WAY?

- We sometimes unknowingly trust in works *in certain areas of our lives*
- We know salvation is by grace but *we are proud that we don't smoke (and secretly despise those Christians who do)*
Mat 7:1-2 "*Judge not, that you be not judged.* For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you
- We think our *Christian acts and service forces God to give us special acceptance and status*
Luk 17:10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, '*We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.*' " (*He will decide our reward*)

IGNORANT AND UNSUBMITTED?

*Rom 10:3 For they (the Jews) being **ignorant of God's righteousness** and seeking to establish their own righteousness, **have not submitted to the righteousness of God.***

NOW WE KNOW



All that remains is to **choose**

CHOOSE YOUR

RIGHTEOUSNESS!



God's
Righteousness

is

A Gift

by

Faith

result

Peace and Joy

My
Righteousness

are

Rules I try to keep

by

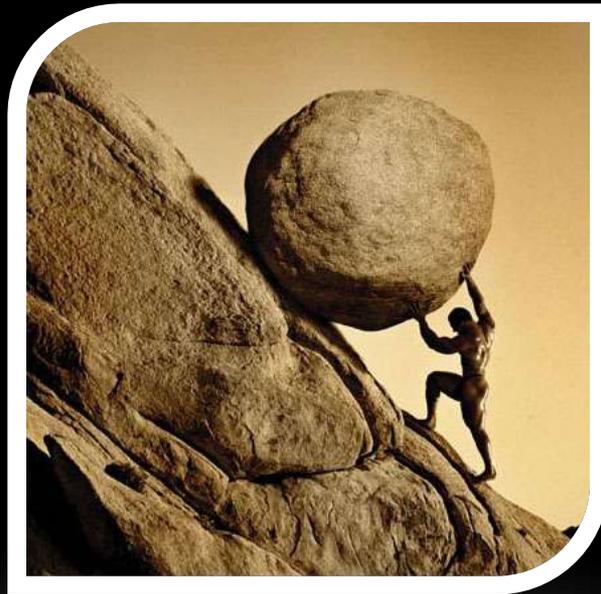
Works

result

The consequences
of having broken the law

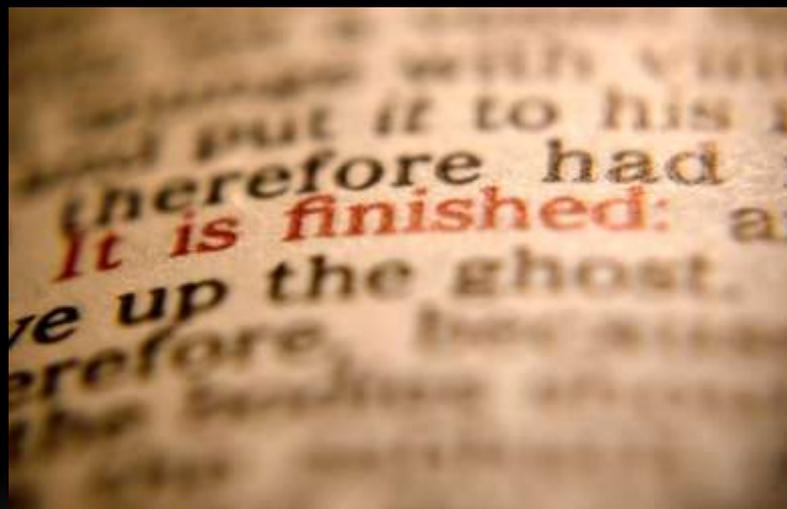
SUMMARY

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO BECOME
RIGHTEOUS **BY KEEPING THE LAW**



WHEN WE TRY TO GET RIGHTEOUS AND FAIL
WE END UP LIVING UNDER A CURSE

ONCE YOU TRUST IN GOD
HE JUSTIFIES YOU AND DECLARES YOU RIGHTEOUS
– IT'S A DONE DEAL



THE TRAP OF SATAN: TRADE WORKS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS



YOU CAN RELAX IN HIM.

CHOOSE TO BELIEVE HIS WORD:

**THROUGH FAITH YOU ARE MADE COMPLETELY RIGHTEOUS
AND ARE LOVINGLY ACCEPTED BY GOD**



GOD DECLARES YOU RIGHTEOUS,
SO FORGIVE YOURSELF
FOR YOUR PAST SINS
AND CURRENT WEAKNESS
(UNLESS YOUR STANDARDS ARE HIGHER THAN HIS)



NOW WE CAN **COME TO GOD**
WITH BOLDNESS,
JOY AND FREEDOM

