

**The Power of Righteousness:
Without Faith it is Impossible**

“Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:22-23

Recent events in our world confirm the prophetic statement delivered by Paul to the evangelist Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:1. These are the last days and they are, indeed, perilous. Evil, sin and lawlessness is being manifested every day. As always, our society looks for someone to blame. We point the finger at one another and, at the end of the day, the violence, injustice and sin continues. Is there any hope for our nation and our world, we ask. Can change really occur? Thanks be to God that, in spite of what is transpiring in our world right now, Yes! There is hope (1 Timothy 1:1) and, the change we cry out for starts with your faith.

Do you believe there is a God? Your response to that critical question is what truly determines whether or not righteous, good and true change will occur in this world; and, the second question you must answer is even more critical: Do you trust God? The reason these two questions are essential is because our response reveals the measure of the most powerful force that leads to change in us and this world: “faith”; and, faith is the foundation of righteousness...*right living and doing*. (2 Peter 1:5-9)

When a person, people, nation or world does not believe there is a God and does not trust God, lawlessness will ensue because there is no perceived “higher authority” or ultimate law that we are accountable to. If I do not believe there is a God, then there is no standard or authority of truth and goodness for me to govern my actions by. Therefore, right becomes what I feel or determine is right and, since we are all creatures of habit and highly influenced by flawed external and internal factors, our definition of right or righteousness is flawed (Isaiah 64:6). We must recognize that we cannot be good nor do good without God. For righteousness or goodness is a part of His nature and is imparted to and imputed upon whoever is connected to Him. (Romans 5:18-21; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Therefore, if you want this world to change for the better, let it begin with you and your faith. If you are fully persuaded that God is real and He can and will do what He has promised to do, show it by acknowledging and accepting the gift of salvation and righteousness that He offers us through Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Romans 6:23). Once you are connected with Him, let him empower you to become a vessel of righteousness by being obedient to his word daily. When you do this, His spirit will work in you and through you to transform this world. (John 15:5; Romans 12:1-2)