



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 29

## **Simplicity in Believing**

Isaiah 51:1-2 (ESV),

*“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. 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.”*

Thank You, Father, for Your glorious word and Your faithful character, for without which we would all surely perish by our sins and iniquities. But even so, Lord, You see something greater, a design that we cannot fathom, and we have only to trust You. As we read and study Your Word Father, quicken and enliven it to our spirits, that we can be united in such a way to fear You and keep in step with Your truth, in Jesus name Amen.

To bring some clarity to the overall context of this prophetic utterance in Isaiah, I would like to first give the understanding that even though these prophecies were spoken to the Jewish people of Isaiah's time, it bears significant relevance for those of us even today. In fact, it bears even more than just mere significant relevance, it seems that this passage is kind of a heart unto our very own faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, these words were a setting for the pearl to be placed in, where the fulfillment is in Jesus the pearl of great value (Matthew 13:45-46).

Now, another amazing concept about this great salvation in Christ Jesus or the gift of righteousness is that these prophets who prophesied about this amazing grace that was to be ours searched and inquired carefully about it. Along with the people and the prophets of God looking into it and searching for it let us also understand that even angels longed to see the day as well as longed to look into this grace which was given to us (1 Peter 1:10-12). The amazing part about this is further referenced in the chosen passage of Scripture in Isaiah 51:1-2 when it speaks of the one who is pursuing righteousness or the one who is truly seeking God that they are to look to the quarry they were dug out from.

That quarry is effectively known as Abraham. But the key in understanding this is found in Genesis 15:1-6 where the Lord cut a covenant with Abraham when he was still called Abram at which point Abram asked this of the Lord in vs 2, “*O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless.*” Later, in vs 4, the Lord tells Abram, “*your very own son shall be your heir,*” at which point the Lord calls Abram outside to look at the heavens and asks Abram if he can number the stars of the heavens. Notice, the Lord telling him, “*if you are able to number them,*” (vs 5). The Lord then told Abram, “*so shall your offspring be.*”

The next part is absolutely remarkable because if we really look at this situation that Abraham was in we would soon realize that he was in an impossible situation. I mean, he and his wife were really old and had no child of their own and on top of this, they came from a place to another place that they were not even familiar with.

I would be thinking, ok, Lord, You say that you want to do all of this in my life. But I cannot see or even imagine this as a possibility. In fact, my current situation tells me that this is not possible and life has not taught me to believe in something I cannot see.

However, that is not how the story goes. In fact, listen to Genesis 15:6 (ESV), “*And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.*” Wow, Hallelujah! I picture Abraham just saying, Ok Lord.

How about you, what would you have said? Or, better yet, what have you said in your own experience with God?

Something interesting here is also the fact that this place in Scripture where Abraham believed God is further echoed in the New Testament and is in those who believe in Christ Jesus and follow Him a fulfillment to the prophecy spoken about in Isaiah 51. Look here in Galatians 3:6 (ESV), “*just as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.*”

However, the context here spoken by the Apostle Paul is denoting more than just a one-time salvation experience and is in line with a true work of salvation that is likened to a continual walk. In other words, what we will soon see next, is the fulfillment of this prophecy in everyday believers who walk in a continual and abiding way. In short, it is as is spoken in Galatians 3:11 (ESV), “*the just shall live by faith.*”

Simplicity in belief comes down to this; to believe in the One who is speaking. Right before Paul spoke about the faith that Abraham had and how it was accounted to him as righteousness Paul said this in Galatians 3:5 (ESV), “*Does*

*He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by the works of the law or by the hearing with faith.” Literally right after this Paul said, “just as Abraham believed God.”*

I find the simplicity here remarkable. O that we all endeavored to have this simplicity in our faith. The temptation to focus on a works-based religion is evident in all of us from time to time. We figure, that if we don't do this or that, that we won't be accepted by God or that somehow, we would fail to be found pleasing to Him. However, God is not just interested in works, although works are needed. However, the works that God is pleased with are the ones that are done while heeding His voice and word and following through in faith. So if you are truly pursuing righteousness, look to father Abraham and realize that we are in the same family as Abraham if we believe. Galatians 3:29 (ESV), *“And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”*

Father, thank You dearly for Your Word. Again Lord, quicken this Word to our hearts so that we can live in such a way that just believes You. We know that without faith it is impossible to please You. Cleanse our hearts from anything that has entered into us that is bringing us into some sort of works-based bondage. Set us free to truly believe You and worship You accordingly, in Jesus name. Amen.

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
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