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Righteousness And Faithfulness
The Attributes of God, Pt. 5

As we have looked at God's moral and communicable attribute of holiness, and seen that it deals with God's very nature and character that is morally pure unto perfection, we want to look now at two other attributes intricately connected and related to God's attribute of holiness.

I. Righteousness.

II. Faithfulness.

III. The application of the three attributes.

I. Righteousness.

A. God's righteousness refers to God's execution of his holiness in relation to man.

1. He is just unto perfection as He deals with His creatures, saved or non-saved.
 - a. Towards the unsaved He is merciful as their Creator attempting to bring them under conviction of their sins to repent.
 - b. Towards the saved He is gracious to direct and guide the believer through obedience to His word.
2. The Old Testament uses two most common words in Hebrew for the righteousness of God.

- a. The first is "Sediq" which means being just, lawful, right or straight.
 - 1) This is God's moral and ethical standard as His nature and will.
 - 2) The Lord is just, impartial, unable to make mistakes, unwavering and consistent in His dealings, actions and decisions to perfection. Deut. 4:8; 16:19; 25:1; Amos 2:6, 5:12; Hosea 14:0
- b. The other word is "mishpat", means righteous judgment as a judge, the act, process, decision or verdict.
 - 1) It is often rendered "Judgment" most of the four-hundred times it appears.
 - 2) Two books that focus on God's righteous judgments towards man's unrighteous dealings is Hosea and Amos. Hosea 5:1, 11; 6:5; 10:4; 12:6; Amos 5:7, 15, 24; 6:12
 - 3) The word "justice" is a good understanding of the Hebrew word.
 - 4) The breastplate of the High Priest was called the "breastplate of judgment" "**mishpat**". God would give His judgment through the Urim and Thumin, which means "lights and perfections". Ex. 18:15, 29-30
- c. The Scriptures guarantee the absolute perfection of the judgments of God.

- 1) Moses says, “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice “mishpat”, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous “Sediq” and upright is He. Deut. 32:4
 - 1) The judgments “mishpat” of the Lord are true and righteous all together. Ps. 19:9
 - 3) The Lord our God is righteous “Sediq” in all his works. Dan. 9:14
3. The New Testament has comperable meanings for the word righteousness.
 - a. The word righteous “didaios”, means right, equal and translated “just” and “righteous” appearing some 81 times.
 - b. When it deals with God it refers to His just and absolutely right judgments of people and nations.
 - c. God act at all times in complete conformity to His holy nature and will that is aided by His knowledge and wisdom that is unto perfection.
 4. So basically God’s righteousness deals with his actions and decisions towards man that are right unto perfection.
 - a. “They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!” Rev. 15:3

- b. “And I heard the angel of the waters saying: “You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.” Rev. 16:5
* The bowl judgments!
 - c. “For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.” Rev. 19:2
- B. Righteousness is declared throughout the Scriptures, it is not isolated to one or a few books.
 1. God’s attribute of righteousness is illustrated vividly by Abraham as he intercedes for Sodom. Gen. 18
 - a. “Will you also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”
 - b. “Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?”
 2. God’s attribute of righteousness was declared by Pharaoh when he said, “I have sinned this time: the Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked.” Ex. 4:27
 3. God’s attribute of righteousness is evident when He smote Miriam with leprosy for her instigation and involving Aaron to speak against Moses. Num. 12:10

4. God again smote Herod with worms and he died because he did not give the glory to God, as the people declared him to be a god. Acts 12:23
5. God's righteous judgment of smiting Annanias and Sapphira dead declared a righteous act against their hypocrisy. Acts 5
* "For the righteous Lord loves righteousness." Ps. 11:7

C. The law was God's righteous provision for man to come near to him and have fellowship.

1. Paul says, "the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just, and good." Rom. 7:12
2. In First Timothy Paul says that the law was not made for the righteous, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane... 1Tim. 1:9
* So the law was God's righteous provision to bring unrighteous man unto fellowship with Him.
3. The Law was based on the system of sacrifices, who would be the substitute for the sinner and whose blood would be the atonement or covering till the true Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, being types and shadows.
* There were five basic offerings:
 - a. The burnt offering, representing dedication and consecration.

- b. The meat offering, representing service.
- c. The peace offering representing fellowship with God.
- d. The sin offering, representing the missing of the mark.
- e. The trespass offering, representing the willful disobedience.

D. God's righteousness is manifested in the punishment of the wicked and the rewarding the faithful saint.

1. The wicked are said to get what they deserve.
 - a. "Therefore the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God *is* righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice". Dan. 9:14
 - b. He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer **judgment** for the peoples in uprightness. Ps. 9:8
 - c. "But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in **judgment**, And God who is holy shall be hallowed in righteousness." Is. 5:16
 - d. "Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have appointed them for **judgment**; O Rock, You have marked them for correction." Hab. 1:12

- e. Paul says, “Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Rom. 1:32
 - f. Peter tells us, “For the time has come for **judgment** to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?” 1Pet. 4:17
 - g. Jude states, “Enoch the seventh from Adam prophesied of the Lord coming with ten-thousands of His saints to execute **judgment** on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” Jude 1:15
 - h. John says, “Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.” Rev. 14:9-10
2. The saints are said to be rewarded.

- * “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.” Ps. 89:14
 - a. God rewarded Noah for believing, preaching and building the ark for 120 years, Noah and his family were saved. Gen. 6-8
 - b. God told Abraham, “I am your shield, and your exceeding great reward, and promised him a son to be his heir, not Eliezer.” Gen. 15:1
* Sarah conceived and bore Isaac!
 - c. God rewarded Jeremiah for his faithfulness in that he did not go into captivity.
 - d. God exalted both Joseph and Daniel to a position of prominence because they would not sin against him. Heb. 6:10
 - e. The Psalms tell us that there is a reward for the righteous. Ps. 58:11
 - f. “Those that come to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb. 11:6
- E. The righteousness of God is clearly seen in the forgiveness of our sins.
- 1. The city of Nineveh repented on a maybe, though mostly everyone labels it the greatest revival, they are wrong, for revival in it’s true Biblical definition is for the believer to

come alive from a lethargic and complacent life and thereby reach out to the lost, God wanted to revive Jonah, Nineveh was the greatest miracle because it was lost.

* Regardless of how wicked and profane we were, if we repent, God will forgive us on the basis of his son. Rom. 3:22

2. God forgave David of his sin with Bathsheba, the murder of Uriah on the basis of genuine repentance and animal sacrifice.
 - * We have a continuous provision of an advocate to make intercession for us as we stumble and fall short. 1Jn. 2:1
3. Neither the amount of sin nor the kind of sins violates the holiness of God for both in the Old and the Testament the method and means met His standard according to His righteousness, blood. Lev. 17:11; 1Pet. 1:19

Illustration

Helene Michel, a 24-year-old secretary in New York found a check in a Wall Street parking lot. On finding the check, Miss Michel immediately began spending it — in her mind. She turned the check to the bank and a spokesman for the bank on which the check was drawn said she couldn't have cashed it anyway since it was payable to a company. She was rewarded \$25 for returning the check, which was written for the amount of \$2 million,803,914.75.

* I Thank God His righteousness is more just than the banker that dealt with this woman!

The attribute of righteousness is communicable to the believer!

II. Faithfulness.

- A. The faithfulness of God is the attribute that enables the saint to trust, rely, and depend on God in regards to the totality of his word.
 1. In Hebrews, the word “emwnah”, means firmness, fidelity, steadfastness, steadiness with the idea to build up or support, to render firm.
 - a. “I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your **faithfulness** to all generations.” Ps 89:1
 - b. “I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, And that in **faithfulness** You have afflicted me.” Ps 119:75
 - c. “Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! In Your **faithfulness** answer me, And in Your righteousness”. Ps 143:1
 - d. “Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your **faithfulness**.” Lam. 3:22-23
 - e. A key word for the Old Testament that is synonymous with the attribute of God's faithfulness is the word loving-kindness

“cheched” appearing some 248 times and we find it in the mouth of Jonah the prophet. Jonah 4:2

* “So he prayed to the LORD, and said, “Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in **lovingkindness “cheched”**, One who relents from doing harm.”

2. In the New Testament the Greek word for faithfulness is “pistos” which means of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties.

* Some words we might use for God’s attribute of “faithfulness” are words such as trusty, reliable, loyal, dependable, consistent, steadfast.

- a. The faithfulness of God is best understood by the statement of Solomon.

* “Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.” 1Kings 8:56

- b. Proverbs says, “A faithful witness will not lie.” Prov. 14:5
- c. Paul tells the Corinthians, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is faithful*, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.” 1Cor. 10:13
- d. “He who calls you *is faithful*, who also will do *it*.” 1Thess. 5:24
- e. “But the Lord is **faithful**, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one.” 2Thess. 3:3
- f. “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and **faithful** High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” Heb 2:17
- h. “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was called Faithful and True*, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.” Rev. 19:11

B. God’s faithfulness is heralded throughout the Scriptures.

1. “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps

covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.” Deut. 7:9-10

2. “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” Deut. 32:4
3. “Those who **trust** in the LORD Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.” Ps. 125:1
* The cry of the Psalmist is, “Blessed is the man who trusts in God.”
4. The prophet Jeremiah says, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.” Jer. 17:7
5. “God is faithful by whom you were called unto the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ.” 1Cor. 1:9
6. We are to commit the keeping of our souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. 1Pet. 4:19
7. “He is the Amen, the faithful and true witness.” Rev. 3:14

C. God’s faithfulness to His word, promises, and covenant is imprinted throughout the Bible.

1. “For in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die.” Gen. 2:17
 2. He gave the promise of the seed of woman, to Adam and Eve, expanded it to the prophets and fulfilled it through a young girl named Mary. Gen. 3:15; Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:23
 3. God told Abraham of the nation Israel, their bondage for 400 years and their occupying the land. Gen. 15:13
 4. Isaac was born according to God’s word. Gen. 21
 5. “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.” Deut. 7:9
* From Moses to Joshua it was fulfilled!
 6. The captivity of 70 years in Babylon was prophesied by Jeremiah and confirmed to the very year by Daniel. Jer. 25:12; Dan. 9:1-2
 7. What shall we say to the promises of eternal life or the seven year judgment that is to come to this world and the return of Christ. Rev. 6-19
- D. God is faithful to discipline his own.
- * “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights.” Prov. 3:11-12; Heb. 12:5-11

1. God chastened Jacob with his very own medicine, Uncle Laban. Gen. 29-30
2. God refused Moses to enter the Promised Land revealing that God is very interested in obedience and proper representation. Deut. 4:21
3. God chastened David for committing adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah. 2Sam. 12:7-13
4. Jesus chastened Peter when he rebuked him predicting his death. Matt. 16:23
5. God's faithfulness is said to be:
 - a. Infinite. Ps. 36:5
 - b. Incomparable. Ps. 89:8
 - c. Unfailing. Ps. 89:33
 - d. Everlasting. Ps. 119:90

Illustration

Old Faithful at Yellow-stone National Park, that guizer will go off on time every time, this is a good picture of God's attribute of faithfulness!

The attribute of God's faithfulness is communicable to the believer!

III. The application.

- A. The first of these moral attributes of God which are communicable to us is the holiness of God.
 1. It is not sufficient to know that God is holy, but that I be obedient to be holy and walk in

the light, otherwise the truth is not in us and we make God a liar. 1Jn. 1:8, 10

2. Peter says, "For the time has come for **judgment** to begin at the house of God; and if it *begins* with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?" 1Pet. 4:17

B. The second of the moral attributes of God is righteousness,

1. God alone is righteous unto perfection being governed by His holiness, for He is purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Hab. 1:13
2. God has imparted to every believer the ability to deal righteously with our fellowman by His divine power and has "given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2Pet. 1:3-4

C. The third of the moral attributes of God is His faithfulness.

1. God is absolutely reliable to be and supply all that is necessary to be trustworthy and dependable, in fact He is called faithful and

true, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. Rev. 19:11

2. As I depend on God and acknowledge Him in all my ways, He will work in me and through me, through His Holy Spirit to bring about faithfulness day by day, for one of the manifestation of the Fruit of the Spirit is “faithfulness”. Gal. 5:22.

Illustration

A lady once asked John Wesley that suppose he were to know that he would die at 12:00 midnight tomorrow, how would he spend the intervening time. His reply: “Why madam, just as I intend to spend it now. I would preach this evening at Gloucester, and again at five tomorrow morning: after that I would ride to Tewkesbury, preach in the afternoon, and meet the societies in the evening. I would then go to rend Martin’s house, who expects to entertain me, talk and pray with the family as usual, return to my room at 10 o’clock, commend myself to my heavenly Father, lie down to rest, and wake up in Glory.” #1500

* “Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them.” Lk. 12:37

The application of the attributes of God are not an option, but a requirement!

Conclusion

We have looked at the attribute of God’s holiness and seen that it deals with God’s very nature and character that is morally pure unto perfection, and now righteousness and faithfulness that are intricately connected and related to God’s attribute of holiness.

- I. God’s holiness is manifested in my life by sanctification!
- II. God’s righteousness is manifested by my transformation!
- III. God’s faithfulness is manifested in my edification!