

# **RIGHTEOUSNESS: GOD'S GIFT TO YOU**

By  
Bob Yandian

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# Righteousness – God’s Gift to You

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# Chapter One

## Righteousness – God’s Gift to You

The moment you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you were delivered out of Satan’s kingdom and brought into God’s kingdom. At that moment, God gave you many gifts including the gift of eternal life. When Jesus spoke about eternal life, He wasn’t only talking about the duration of life – a life that will last forever and forever – but also about an extremely high quality of life, an abundant life. He said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Jesus said that the life of God would be like a well of water springing up inside us. It’s one thing to have a well on the inside, it’s quite another thing to drink from that well and be refreshed! In the same way, its one thing to have eternal life on the inside, and it’s another thing to enjoy it.

Just as there is a big difference between existing in a broken-down building and living in a real home, there is a big difference in the quality of life Jesus came to give you. Sad to say, though, many Christians are still just existing. They will die, go to heaven, and never realize what was available to them. Throughout their whole life, they will never discover the many free gifts that were given to them at salvation!

### **Receiving All God Has To Give**

So how do we find out what is ours? The Bible tells us that it’s through God’s exceeding great and precious promises that we become partakers of the divine nature. As we study the Word of God, we find these promises – there are almost 7,000 of them – and discover all the gifts that God has poured out on us.

There are over thirty gifts that God gives us at the point of salvation. These gifts are free and unearned. They are based on unconditional promises that God makes to all who have been born again by accepting Jesus as Lord. You can never lose them: they are not revoked when you sin, because they are not based on what you have done but on what Jesus has done.

There is nothing you do to add to – or take away from – what Jesus has already done! You do not have to live the right type of life or come with the right attitude of repentance. You don’t need to crawl on your knees or do any “good works” to try to earn God’s approval.

Some people think, “I’m saved now, but I’m really going to be saved after I do this.” No, you will never be “more saved” than you were the first day you received Jesus. God’s redemption package is complete.

### **Conditional and Unconditional Promises**

So far, we have been discussing the unconditional promises of God. These give us blessings that we neither earn nor deserve but receive simply because we believe in Jesus. As you study the Bible, you will find another entire group of promises which are conditional. "Conditional" means that if you do your part, then God will do His part. These are the blessings we lose out on when we sin.

The Bible is full of conditional promises: answered prayer is conditional (Hebrews 11:6), protections is based on our obedience (Proverbs 2:7), financial provision is conditional, as are peace and joy. Psalm 84:11 says, "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." As we obey God's commands and fulfill the conditions of these promises, God develops our character – so we will think, act, and react like Jesus toward our fellow man in any situation.

Historically, the Church has majored on the conditional promises of God. In fact, sometimes we have put so much emphasis on the conditional promises and what we have to do to meet God's conditions that we have forgotten about the other set of promises and the unconditional blessings that God freely gives to us simply because we believe in Jesus.

Both sets are important. If we don't understand the conditional promises, we will never experience the fullness of God's blessings and provision for our lives on the earth. If we don't understand the unconditional promises, it is easy to get caught up in the trap of religion, which causes us to continually work to earn God's approval.

The truth is, once you are born again, you have God's approval! He loves you! You are acceptable to Him, not because of what you have done, but because of what Jesus has done for you.

The whole idea of grace, of getting something you haven't earned or deserved, is so foreign to the human way of thinking that it is hard at first to believe it is really true. Yet the Bible makes it very clear that God sees you as already perfect and complete in Christ.

### **Truth That Transforms**

It is important that you know what God has said about you and that you begin to agree with Him regarding your new life in Christ. Here are just a few of the many unconditional promises God has made to all believers:

1. Because I am a believer in Jesus Christ, I can rejoice that my name is written in heaven. (Luke 10:20).
2. I have peace with God through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).
3. Jesus will never, never, never leave me (Hebrews 13:5-6).
4. Jesus is continuously making intercession for me (Hebrews 7:25).
5. The Holy Spirit has come, and He will teach me all things, and guide me into all truth (John 16:13).
6. I have been acquitted of all sin through Jesus Christ (2Corinthians 5:21).

7. He has dismissed all evidence against me, taking it out of the way, nailing it to the cross (Colossians 2:14).
8. Through the obedience of Jesus, I have been made righteous – made acceptable to God, and brought into right standing with Him (Romans 5:19).
9. Jesus made me free, so I am free indeed (John 8:36).
10. I am a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17).
11. Old things have passed away (2 Corinthians 5:17).
12. All things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).
13. I am God's workmanship (handiwork) created in Christ Jesus unto good works (Ephesians 2:10b).
14. God is working in me both to desire and do His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).
15. I am complete in Him (Colossians 2:10).
16. I have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3).
17. I have been raised up with Jesus and now sit with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6).
18. I can do all things through Christ who keeps on strengthening me (Philippians 4:13).
19. God has not given me a spirit of fear, but a spirit of love, power, and soundness of mind (2 Timothy 1:7).
20. Nothing can separate me from God's love: He and I are inseparable (Romans 8:35-39).

Read through the above scriptures again and again. Memorize them so you can think of them throughout the day. God's Word will change your way of thinking – and transform you from the inside out!

# Chapter Two

## The Gift of Righteousness

Righteousness is one of the most important of the many unconditional gifts God gives us when we are born again. It is vital that we understand from the very start that righteousness is a free gift. We did nothing to earn it or deserve it. We can't lose righteousness when we sin, because it is not based upon what we do or don't do. Without this understanding, we will probably start to feel unworthy and unrighteous, and this will keep us from going on with the Lord.

### What is Righteousness?

"Righteous" means spotless, holy, or perfect. God is our standard of perfection. Psalm 18:30 tells us: "As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

Psalm 145:17 says, "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works."

When you were born again, God put His perfect Holy Spirit inside you. Because of this, you are righteous and perfect on the inside – as righteous and as perfect as God. You are also as holy as God in your spirit man on the inside.

God has made us righteous, yet many Christians don't feel righteous. That's because they look at their outward life and not their inward life. The Bible says we have a treasure (the Holy Spirit) in an earthen pot or vessel (2 Corinthians 4:7). Unfortunately, most Christians only look at their "pot" on the outside; they don't look at the "treasure" on the inside!

The earthen vessel will go through tribulations, troubles, and trials; it can become cracked, scratched, and covered with dust. But the treasure on the inside remains perfect.

The Bible says in Colossians 2:10 that the moment you believed in Jesus Christ you were complete in Him. "Complete" means "nothing else can be added to it." You can't add to the redemption package of God.

Therefore, you cannot become more righteous – nor do you "grow in righteousness" – because righteousness is part of the treasure on the inside, and the treasure is already complete. Yet, there is growth in the Christian life. As you continue to study God's Word and apply what you learn by obeying His commands, you will find yourself changing and growing in areas that deal with the outward man and the soul (the mind, the will, and the emotions).

In other words, your body and your soul can continue to grow – changing to become more and more like Jesus – but your spirit cannot. Your spirit is complete and perfect already, because the Holy Spirit lives there.

It is so important that you understand this and base your faith in the righteousness of Jesus, and not in any “good works,” religious deeds, or any human righteousness of your own.

The Bible makes it clear that human righteousness is not God’s righteousness. Man has his own type of holiness or righteousness based on works, which he tries to present to God. Isaiah gives us God’s view of our “righteous” deeds:

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...” (Isaiah 64:6)

All our noble deeds and good works are as filthy rags in God’s sight. They may earn us points with man, but they do not earn us points with God.

### **The Bad, The Good, and the Religious**

In the book of Romans, we see three different types of men trying to approach God. In chapter one, we have the immoral man, the type most people think of when they hear the “sinner.” These are the drug dealers, the prostitutes, the homosexuals, and the murderers.

Next, there is the “moral” sinner. These are the people who offer up their own morality to God hoping to earn eternal life. They don’t go to church except on special occasions. Basically, they don’t see the need for a Savior because they have “been good.” They say, “I think my good works will outweigh the bad things I’ve done.” They have this idea that when they get to heaven, there will be a big scale, and God will put all their sins on one side and all their good deeds on the other side. If the good deeds outweigh the bad deeds, then they will be allowed to go to heaven. They are the first ones to tell you, “I’m not like that bum in the gutter. I don’t use drugs. I’m not a prostitute. I don’t do those types of things. I’m a good, moral man. Surely, heaven’s going to open up for me.”

Finally, there is the religious man, the one who says, “I go to church. I’ve been water baptized. I give money. I have built the church a wing, and my name is etched on a pew. All this bound to get me into heaven.

### **Degrees of Punishment**

I believe there are degrees of punishment in hell just as there are degrees of blessing in heaven. Most people hear this and think, “I know the ones who are going to burn the worst: the alcoholic, the homosexual, and the drug dealers.”

No, I don’t think so. In fact, from what I have found in the Word of God, the religious men are going to suffer the most in hell. Jesus spoke to the Pharisees, the most religious people of His day, and said, “It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for thee” (Matthew 11:24).

Sodom and Gomorrah were ancient cities filled with sinful, immoral people who didn’t care a thing about God or church. Their attitude was, “If we’re going to sin, then let’s sin! If we’re

going to party, then let's just have a good time on the way. Whether there is a God or not, we really don't care. Let's sin, sin, and sin until we die."

If someone talked to them about heaven, they would say, "I don't want to go to heaven; only dull people go there. All the party girls are in hell. I want to go where we can have a good time." You would think that these would be the type of people who are going to burn the worst in hell.

But Jesus told the religious Pharisees it would be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for them on judgment day. Basically, He said, "You religious people, who flaunt your good works and church attendance, and try to make your righteousness equal with God's righteousness, you are the ones who will suffer the most on that day."

### **The Trap of Religion**

Religion is nothing more than man trying, through his own human righteousness, to attain right standing with God. Man designed religion to bring him closer to God, but sadly, it actually has the opposite effect: it drives him further from the Lord. Religion puffs up man's pride that he in his own strength can merit eternal life. Religion hardens man's heart against the truth of the Gospel. In fact, religious people are the hardest of all to win. The longer someone has been in religion, the further they are away from the truth. It's harder for the Holy Spirit to break down that barrier in his life, because there is such a wall of pride.

Try telling a religious man that all of the religious works he has done for all those years count as nothing before God, and you will see an angry man. Religious men are the most difficult to witness to. I would rather witness to an immoral man than to the moral man any day. But I'd rather witness to a moral man than to a religious man. Religion is a barrier that keeps people from God.

### **A "Blameless" Man**

Saul of Tarsus is an example of a religious man who was far from God. Saul had done every good work known to man. He wrote in Philippians, "Touching the righteousness which is in the law, (I was) blameless." In other words, "I can't think of any time I have ever sinned or failed to keep God's law. In my whole life, I was blameless."

Saul had done many good works before he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. In fact, Saul was going to Damascus to do even more "good works." He thought he was on a holy crusade for God, preserving the Jewish faith by killing Christians. Suddenly, a blinding light knocked him to the ground, and the Lord spoke to him personally.

As a result of this visitation, Saul received Jesus as Lord. After he was born again, he became the Apostle Paul and did many good works: he healed the sick, raised the dead, started many churches, and wrote more books of the New Testament than any other man.



But Paul now understood that his good works, both before and after salvation, had nothing to do with him being righteous. Again and again in his letters to the churches, he taught about the unearned gift of righteousness:

Romans 5:17b “They which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”

Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us.”

### **Saved By Faith Alone**

The Bible tells of another man who received righteousness and assurance of eternal life from the Lord. This man was not famous like the Apostle Paul – in fact, we don’t even know his name. We know him simply as “the thief on the cross.” I believe what happened between Jesus and this thief occurred to prove conclusively that we are saved by faith alone.

Hundreds of years before the crucifixion, Isaiah had prophesied that Jesus would be “numbered with the transgressors,” so it was not just a coincidence that Jesus was crucified between two thieves. Everything in the Word of God is there by divine decree.

I believe the two thieves represent all of mankind. They had both committed a capital crime and deserved to die. In the same way, you and I deserved to be on the cross for the wrong things we have done. Jesus did not deserve to die, but He took our place. The Bible says, “For he (God) hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Notice, the two thieves were not taken up and put in a kingly court. The king was brought down and was crucified between them.

Before we could be lifted up to Jesus’ level, He had to be brought down to ours. He laid aside His great position in heaven, then humbled Himself and became obedient unto death – even the death of the cross. There, on the cross, Jesus was identified with us and became our great substitute.

But why were two thieves crucified with Jesus that day? One would have been enough to represent sinful mankind.

I believe there were two thieves because there are two answers to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ: “yes, and “no.” The gospel was clearly presented to both thieves, and they both had the same opportunity. Yet, one said, “yes,” while the other said, “no.”

Both thieves saw exactly the same thing. Both saw Jesus carry His cross down the narrow street to Calvary. In times past, they both watched other men drag their crosses down this same street. They saw people spit at these men, and they heard these men curse and try to retaliate, but they had never seen a Man carry His cross peacefully the way this One did.

We are told that when men were nailed to the cross that the screaming could be heard for miles. The two criminals probably screamed when the nails were driven through their hands and feet. They probably cried out in pain when their crosses were dropped into place. Yet the Bible tells us that as a sheep before the shearers is dumb, Jesus opened not His mouth. These thieves had never heard of a man who did not make a sound as he was being crucified.

Both of them saw Jesus hanging on the cross. They heard the soldiers jeering at Him, the passersby reviling him, and the chief priests, scribes, and elders mocking him. The crowd called Him names, making accusations and shouting blasphemies against Him.

Both thieves were so close to Jesus that they could see His face. They could hear Him breathing. Both heard Him say as He looked down from the cross, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

The Lord's hands and feet were nailed to the cross, but no one could nail His ministry down. His hands were no longer free to perform miracles; His feet could not take Him to those in need. Yet Jesus could still pray, and He prayed there for the forgiving power of God.

At first, both thieves joined in with the crowd and mocked Jesus. Then the Bible tells us:

"Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." (Luke 23:39-41)

As the second thief continued to watch Jesus, his heart began to melt. He turned and repented. At first, he said, "no," but now he said, "yes."

He clearly saw Jesus – and his heart was changed. We, too, have clearly seen Jesus. We have turned away from the crowd and have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior.

### **Yield to the Holy Spirit**

Both thieves saw the love of God clearly presented. And both were given the same opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Let me tell you what happened to the one who repented: he listened to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had convicted both thieves, but only one of them yielded.

Jesus said, "If I be lifted up ... [I] will draw all men unto me." How many men did Jesus say would be drawn? All men. Each and every time someone hears the gospel, the Holy Spirit immediately starts working to convict their hearts. But some do not yield to Him.

## **Remember Me**

As the thief yielded to the Holy Spirit, he spoke to Jesus:

“Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” (Luke 23:42)

The thief said, Lord, remember me.” Notice that he didn’t say, “Lord, give me a big crown.” He didn’t say, “look at me, Lord! Aren’t I great? I’m accepting You. I’ve received You by faith. I’m sure there are some big rewards for me on the other side.”

No, all he said was, “Lord, remember me. Lord, think about me when You come into Your kingdom.” This man asked for the smallest amount of mercy he could think of, just to be remembered. Yet Jesus gave him the greatest amount of mercy that this man could have ever imagined:

“And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

Jesus said, “Today.” That’s how fast the thief was born again. His whole life was changed because of his choice. If this man were 50 years old, the 50 years of sin were suddenly wiped out the moment he received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Jesus said, “I’ll do more than just remember you. I’ll take you with Me. When I go to Paradise, you’re coming too.”

## **Saved Without Works**

There is no way around the fact that this thief was born again. His whole life was changed because of his choice. If this man were 50 years old, then 50 years of sin were suddenly wiped out the moment he received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Jesus said, “I will do more than just remember you. I’ll take you with Me. When I go to Paradise, you are coming too.”

## **Saved Without Works**

There is no way around the fact that this thief was saved by grace. There is no way he could have worked to earn his salvation. If he had to walk an aisle at church and say the sinner’s prayer, he would be sunk. If he had to be water baptized to be saved, he would be disqualified. If he had to tithe to get saved, he could not have it. If this man had to do good works, he would not have been able to go to Paradise with Jesus.

There were three things that put this man at a great disadvantage. First, his hands were nailed to the cross, so he could do no good works. Next, his feet were nailed to the cross, so he could not walk in the paths of righteousness. Finally, he was dying so he couldn’t turn over a new leaf. He couldn’t say, “Well, from now on, I’m going to be a much better man.” He only had a few more hours left on this earth.

Even though his hands and feet were nailed to a cross and he couldn't do a single good work, his faith could still operate – it was not nailed down. The man, with his dying breath, had an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

### **In Their Dying Moments**

I really believe that when we get to heaven, we are going to see a lot more older folks than we thought. Do you know why? Because many of them, in their dying moments, received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It doesn't matter that we never found out about their decision. We're going to know one of these days, when we stand before the throne of God.

Here's the case where a man lived as a thief all his life. He was written off by society, and yet he received Jesus Christ as Lord just before he died. He had done no good works before the cross to deserve salvation. On the cross he could do no good works to earn his salvation. And after salvation, he didn't have time to do any good works to keep his salvation.

Therefore, his works before the cross, his works on the cross, or his works after the cross had nothing to do with it. This man was saved purely by the grace of God just like you and I are saved purely by the grace of God.

# Chapter Three

## The Dividing Line

The dividing line for heaven and hell is not your works; the dividing line for heaven and hell is receiving Jesus Christ and the righteousness of God.

The moral man and the religious man both offer up to God reasons why they should have eternal life. But in reality, they are going to burn in hell just like the drunk in the gutter if they don't receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The Bible says, "There is none righteous, no not one." All men have failed. Romans 3:23 tells us, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Man has his righteousness, his relative righteousness, but no one has God's righteousness without Jesus.

It doesn't matter how good you've been, how faithfully you've lived a religious life, or how much money you've given away. You are no nearer salvation than Saul of Tarsus or the thief on the cross. If you have not accepted Jesus Christ and based your hopes for heaven strictly on the merits of what He did on the cross, you have not received eternal life.

### **The Only Way to Heaven**

There is only one way to get into heaven. God gives the test, and you have to make 100 on it; 99 is failing; 99.9 is failing; 100 is the only passing grade. Now, the difficult part is that no one can pass God's test. No one. All have sinned and come short of the perfect score of 100. No one can make it.

Except for one Man. His Name is Jesus, and He passed the test. For 33 years, He walked this earth and He never failed once. He answered every question perfectly. He made 100.

He went to the cross and died. Why? Because when He went to the cross, He swapped your flunking grade for His passing grade. The Bible says the One Who knew no sin was made to be sin for you, so you could be made righteous. In other words, the One Who knew no failure was made to be failure that you might have the 100 He scored on His test. You can't go to heaven unless you know the Man who can give You His score. If you accept Jesus, then He will give you His 100.

When God asks, "What did you make on your test?" you can say, "I made 100 because Jesus gave it to me." Then God will say, "Walk through the door. Welcome to eternal life." Praise God!

### **Making the Swap**

The Bible makes it so simple. Romans 10:6-10 tells how the exchange is made, how we can receive God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ:

*“But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down from above)*

*or “Who will descend into the abyss?”” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).*

*But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):*

*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

When the religious man tries to establish his own righteousness, it is an insult to Jesus. This verse tells us it is like pulling Jesus back down to the earth or going to the depths of the earth to lift Him back up and saying, “There is no sense in You going to hell for three days and three nights. There is no sense in You ascending into heaven. Your work doesn’t mean anything, Jesus. It’s my work that means something.”

That is blasphemy! There is no other way around it. Anyone who tries to get saved by their own works is blaspheming the work of Jesus Christ. Basically, they are saying. “So Jesus went to hell; it doesn’t matter. So He ascended into heaven, it doesn’t matter. I’m going to pay my own way. I’m going to attend church. I’m going to serve God. I’m going to give. I’m going to pray. I’m going to do this and that.” And Jesus is left out of the equation.

In contrast to this do-it-yourself salvation, what does the word of faith say? It says, “Confess with your mouth Jesus is your Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will receive the righteousness of God.”

Salvation is so simple. It doesn’t take great works, it doesn’t take faithful church attendance. It doesn’t take sacrificial offerings. It is not hard. In fact, salvation is so simple that anybody with a mouth and a heart can have it.

If it took work, some people couldn’t do it. If it took a certain level of intellect, some people could never achieve it. God made the plan of salvation so simple that the Old Testament says a wayfaring fool couldn’t err in it (Isaiah 35:8). Both idiots and Ph.D.’s can receive it. God made it so simple that short people, tall people, ugly people, beautiful people, intellectual people, nonintellectual people, moral, immoral, and amoral people can all receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Salvation is so simple. It is a gift from God, offered to you as freely as it was offered to the thief on the cross. If you have never received this free gift, you can do so today by praying this prayer:

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*You said in Your Word, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

*I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe He died on the cross for my sins, and that He was raised from the dead. I am calling upon His name – the name of Jesus. I now confess Jesus as my Lord, so I know, Father, that according to Your Word, I am now saved!*

*Thank You, Father, for giving me the gift of righteousness. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

If you prayed that prayer, and meant it from your heart, a miracle just happened. God swapped your human righteousness for the perfect, divine righteousness of His Son, Jesus. God now sees you as spotless and blameless. In His eyes, you are a new creation: old things have passed away and all things have become new.

You have received the free gift of righteousness and it will never be taken away from you!

### **Power from on High**

The last instructions Jesus gave His followers are found in Acts 1:4-8. He told them to stay in Jerusalem until they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He went on to say, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” This power or “dunamis” was to enable His followers to be witnesses for Him.

That same word for power is used in a prayer the Apostle Paul prayed for believers: “...that He (the Father) would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man” (Ephesians 3:16).

***Every believer needs this power, this strength, to live a Christian life that will be a witness to others.***

In Acts 2:4, we are told how the disciples “were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” The same thing happened in Acts 10:46 and in Acts 19:6 – believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues.

I strongly encourage you to receive this wonderful gift. It is a source of strength and power which will help you lay aside the weight and the sin, so you can run the race set before you...and finish it!

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