

What is Righteousness?

It's important to affirm that it is NOT a religious word or concept.

To be righteous is to live and behave according to a standard of what is good and right toward the other. The Hebrew word "Tzadik" is the most general term to describe GOOD PEOPLE. Genesis 6:9 states the "Noah was a righteous man", meaning he cared about having a CLEAN CONSCIENCE, living faithfully according to a standard of what is right, and CARING about JUSTICE in the world. Today we would say that Noah was a person of INTEGRITY (Gen 6:9 describes him as "Blameless among the people of his time.")

Here are 4 characteristics in the OLD Testament that are often associated with righteousness:

PURE HEART: having a clear and clean conscience (Prov.20:9). Do you have a clean & clear conscience or are we ignoring / resisting it?

INNOCENCE: irreproachable, blameless, unable to be accused of wrongdoing (Psalm 18:24).

FAIRNESS: caring about and holding to a just and fair standard for all (Ps 9:8). Are we fair in our treatment of our family members, children, friends, work colleagues, clients/ customers/ patients?

JUSTICE: Maintaining a standard of morality for all, offering fair and equal judgment and treatment (Ps 33:5; Leviticus 19:15).

REFLECT on these words and ask the HOLY SPIRIT to search our hearts and examine our ways.

In our next devotional we will look a bit further on the notion of "justice".