

## The Gift of Righteousness

To truly understand God, we must learn about His righteousness. It is impossible to really know who you are as a believer unless you first see who He is. Many Christians unknowingly take His love for us and the price He paid to bring us into Him for granted. If we stacked up a billion suns, they could not compare to the brightness of His righteousness.

Let's take a little glimpse of the worship of Him in Heaven from Revelation 4:8–11:  
*“The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!’ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.’”*

The awe and reverence that simply seeing Him as He is demands instant worship. He is an everlasting being who is only pure righteousness and light, and He cannot change. There is no shadow found in Him. He is perfect in love and in holiness. You can imagine the difficulty created when Adam, who was created in the very image of God, sinned. He was created perfect, holy, and righteous as God and fellowshiped personally with Him.

The consequence of Adam's rebellion was that he was changed from light to dark, from righteousness to sin. This meant that all who came from Adam were born into that sin and darkness. God, who is unable to change Himself to come to man, had to make a way for mankind to come to Himself. This was the reason for salvation, so we could be born into God. Darkness was in every man until God gave us the most amazing gift. We celebrate that precious gift on Christmas morning.

He gave us a piece of His righteousness inside of a little baby named Jesus. From the fall in the Garden of Eden until the manger in Bethlehem, the nature of sin was inside all men until a little light showed up inside a baby born of a virgin. That light was the righteousness of God inserted back into the human race. It was then made possible for all mankind to choose to be born again by that same righteousness.

Jesus lived in perfection for thirty-three and a half years, and then He died. In that death, He became sin, meaning He took on the very darkness that Adam introduced into the world. In that place of darkness and separation, the Father gave Him life and resurrected Him from the dead. You were granted that same resurrection when you accepted Christ; that same life of the Father, the nature of Christ, was given to you.

During this Christmas season, let's remember the reason for the season. God gave us the most important gift of all. The gift of His righteousness was offered to you—unmerited and unearned—yet a free gift from Love and Love alone. Let us celebrate and appreciate our Heavenly Father and the birth of Jesus during this season. Let us remember that we are now born of Him, and Jesus made it possible for His Father to become our Father.

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