



## Gates of Righteousness

“A broken and contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.” Psalm 51:17

1. Gates of Righteousness: Righteousness is not “self-righteousness” it is an alignment of our spirit, soul, and body with God’s will and His righteousness.
2. The FOUNDATIONS Psalm 51
  - a. **Call to Repentance:** Create in us a clean heart and personal stance of being “right with God”:
    - i. As people fast and pray at the head of the year, pray that people experience the goodness of God leading to hearts of repentance that yield life and alignment with God’s purposes in preparation for the year ahead. Righteousness will frequently require repentance that aligns us with God, His will, and His Word.
      1. God to show us areas of our hearts we need cleansing.
        - a. vs. 1-2 “According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sins.”
        - b. vs. 3 “For I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge”
        - c. vs. 10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”
        - d. vs. 17 “A broken and contrite heart you will not despise.”
      2. See also: Mark 2:17, Romans 2:4; Joel 2:12-14
    - ii. Deliverance from guilt
      1. vs. 9 “Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities
      2. vs. 11 “Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”
      3. vs. 14 “ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.”
      4. See also Isaiah 58:9 and pray for the removing of the pointing of the finger towards ourselves (self-condemnation) or towards others.
  - b. **The Building righteousness fosters**

- i. Pray for the renewal and restoration righteousness that produces life, strength and health, **individually and corporately** for the body of Christ
  - 1. Spiritual renewal
    - a. vs. 7 "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."
  - 2. Wisdom
    - a. vs. 6 "behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom."
  - 3. Joy-a real key for sustained revival and transformation
    - a. v. 8 "Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice."
    - b. Also, Nehemiah 8:10, "The joy of the Lord is your strength."
- c. **The Manifestation of Righteousness**
  - i. Life supply and abundance
    - 1. vs. 12 "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous spirit."
    - 2. Restoration of the years the "Locusts have eaten" Joel 2:25
  - ii. Prepare upcoming leaders in righteousness and truth
    - 1. vs. 13, "Then I will teach transgressors Your ways."
    - 2. Malachi 4:6
  - iii. Restoration of righteousness and justice in our personal lives, and spheres of culture
    - iv. v. 18 "Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem."

The promises of "Righteousness" restored:

"I will betroth you to Me forever;  
 Yes, I will betroth you to Me  
**In righteousness and justice,**  
 In lovingkindness and mercy;  
 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness,  
 And you shall know the Lord.  
 'It shall come to pass in that day  
 That I will answer,' says the Lord;  
 'I will answer the heavens,  
 And they shall answer the earth.  
 The earth shall answer  
 With grain,  
 With new wine,  
 And with oil!"

Hosea 2:19-22