

# LENT DEVOTION

Austin Christian Fellowship of India (ACFI)

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*“Righteousness” is the character of God. The root meaning of the Hebrew word saddiq is “straight or upright.” The word “righteous” signifies right ethical” or “moral” standard. God's character of righteousness means He will always be and do what is right in His relationship and dealings with others. The Bible describes God's dealings as “righteous acts” (1 Samuel 12:7) and “righteous deeds” (Psalm 103:6). His laws and ways are righteous (Psalm 119:75 and 145:17). God's character can be divided into two categories in order for us to understand Him.*

*(1) The Non-Communicable character of God (such as Omniscience, Omnipotent, Omnipresent)*

*(2) The Communicable character of God (such as Grace, Mercy, Goodness, Faithfulness, Just, Loving, Compassionate, Righteous etc.)*

*God does not share His Non-communicable characters either with human beings or any other creation. Whereas God shares and in fact wants to share His communicable characters with human beings. He wants us to become good, loving, faithful, gracious, merciful, and also ‘righteous’ even though a human being cannot be like God or become God.*

*God wants us to meet his ethical and moral standards so that we can be in fellowship with Him throughout eternity. But the reality is that, it is impossible for man to attain God's standards. It is in our inability and helplessness to attain “perfection” God took His initiative. By His grace God chose to declare any human being as “righteous” by giving His righteousness. God's righteousness is not given to anyone automatically but through faith to everyone who accepts God's provision realizing his or her own depraved condition. When a person accepts that he or she is a sinner by birth and realizes the needs for a Savior. When a that person believes that Jesus is the Son of God who became a man and died the death of a sinner on the cross, was buried and rose again from the death for his or her sake then this “miracle” happens. God declares that person not guilty (justifies), forgives the sin, puts God's Spirit, gives His righteousness as He gives the gift of eternal life. Everything happens at the very moment when the person believes and accepts Jesus Christ as His or her personal Savior and Lord. “God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you cannot take credit for this: It is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it” (Ephesians 2:8--9) as we are called the ‘righteousness of God.’*