

LENT DEVOTION

Austin Christian Fellowship of India (ACFI)

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The Greek word for "righteousness" is 'dikaiosyne' and in the New Testament this word has been used both with reference to God and human beings. Of course, as I said in my earlier devotion, it primarily refers to the character of God. Righteous is who God is and righteousness is what comes out of Him in all His dealings with human beings and that is what God desires to share with human beings.

In fact, God declares a person 'righteous' just like an individual is conferred with an honorary doctorate degree. It is an honor to be conferred with a doctorate degree but it is in appreciation of what that individual have accomplished. God does not "confer" or "give" and the more appropriate word is "impart" or "impute" on a person in appreciation of what the individual has done or who the individual is! The 'imputation' of righteousness is by the shear grace of God.

The only way to recognize God's act of imputation of His righteousness on a person is through his or her faith. Righteousness was credited to Abraham by God on the basis of Abraham believing and trusting in God (Romans 4:3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 22). Abraham's faith in the only true Yahweh (Jehovah) God was reckoned or credited to him as righteousness. Again, it is God's initiative and work. "Faith" alone helps us to recognize and appreciate what God does in our lives and it is so true with being made 'righteous.'

"Faith" plays a very important role in all of our lives. You and I need to continually "fan into flame the gift of God (faith)" (2 Timothy 1:6) but should not be allowed to fluctuate based on circumstances.