

# LENT DEVOTION

Austin Christian Fellowship of India (ACFI)

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“Righteousness” belongs to God and it is His Character. The same is being imputed or given to a person when he or she believes in Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior – “that I may gain Christ, and be found in Him, not having righteousness of my own (self-righteousness) that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ” (Philippians 3:9). As I stated earlier on, it gives the believer a “status” (a standing in grace) and also subjects him or her to a “process” with the help of the Holy Spirit. This process enables a believer to grow in “righteousness” and to a righteous lifestyle.

Primarily, such a life style calls the believer “to live a life worthy of the calling you have received” (Philippians 4:1) which is “in keeping with the purpose of God.” We all know that the “ONLY PURPOSE” of a believer is to glorify God in our being and becoming. That is, our words, actions, thoughts, and attitudes should honor God. The moral and ethical purity of a believer should honor God.

Moral Purity is different from Ethical purity. The moral purity is visible on the outside and it only describes “How you do the things that you do!” The ethical purity is not visible on the outside because it stems out of the “motives” on the inside of a person. “Why we do what we do” defines the ‘motive’ of an individual. That is when people may seem to do the right thing but for a wrong or selfish reason. The difference is very subtle. That is why the life style of some self-righteous people may be morally pure but ethically may not be. Most of the time a believer is not confused with moral purity as they are visible on the outside but deceive in terms of ethical purity.

A believer is a ‘righteous’ person and excels both in ‘moral and ethical’ purity and in everything the believer’s only purpose is to ‘glorify God!’