

# LENT DEVOTION

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A believer's righteousness is something that God gives into the life of a believer. It is not something that a believer can boast or take credit for. "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:6). God assures that He will continue to provide the guidance needed for a believer not by being away remotely but by being with them very closely holding their hand in the process of using them.

First thing a believer should do is to listen to the One and seek the One who called him/her. "Listen to me, you who pursues righteousness and who seeks the Lord; Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn. Look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many" (Isiah 51:12). God is the multiplier and whatever is given in His Hands just multiplies.

Then, how does the believer listen to God? It is by looking at the roots with humility and reflecting on the love of God. God loved us so much and He came in search of us. In our brokenness God came looking for us and took hold of us and remade us - just like the potter did to the clay (Jeremiah 18:1--4). In our failures God took control of our lives and faithfully provided for us - as He did in the life of Elijah (1 Kings 19). In our sinfulness God took hold of our hands and brought us out - just like He did to Lot and his family (Genesis 13) and the list goes on.

Second thing a believer does is to count on the Faithfulness of God and trust in Him. God never goes back on His Word. If God has done many things in the past He will continue to do the same thing in the future. When Abraham and Sarah were past their age of child-bearing and child-rearing God proved Himself to be faithful. He not only provided the promised son (Isaac) at the appointed time but also blessed Abraham and Sarah and made them a channel of blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:1--3) and there are many more in the list (that includes you too!).

The righteous ones have the privilege to taste and see the love and the faithfulness of God and see that He always remains so good in their lives, it was true in the life of Elkanah and Hannah. She sang: "God raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; He seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor" (1 Samuel 1:8). It was true in the life of David and he assures us: "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall" (Psalm 55:22). It was so true in the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and she sang: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:46--55). If God has been faithful and loving in the past He will continue to do so in your life also, in the present.