



## **Righteousness (Matthew 5:16)**

Choose to live a righteous life for God out of gratitude for Christ's salvation.

### **STAND UP**

- I. **STAND UP for righteousness** - seek God's reward - be Men of godly character. (Matt 5:6; 6:1; 6:33; Ps 15; Rom 6:12-18; Ezek 18:5-9; 1 John 3:7-10; Ps 11:7; 33:4-5; Prov 10:2; 11:4-8, 30-31; 12:28; 13:6; 15:9; 2 Tim 4:7,8)
- A. **Righteous thoughts** – think right thoughts. (Prov 12:5; Matt 23:27,28; Prov 11:23)
1. Memorize and practice God's Word. (2 Tim 3:16,17; Deut 6:6; Ps 119:11,15,16; 119:105)
  2. Bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. (2 Cor 10:5)
  3. Let your mind dwell on what is good. (Php 4:8)
  4. Be pure in heart – pure motives. (Matt 5:8; Prov 16:2)
  5. Be teachable. (Prov 9:9; 10:17; 13:1)
- B. **Righteous words** – speak what is right. (Col 4:6; Prov 10:11, 18-21, 31-32; Eph 4:29-31; 2 Tim 1:13; Prov 22:11; James 3:2-12)
1. Always tell the truth – stand up for truth. (Prov 6:16-19; 13:5; Eph 4:25)
  2. Always speak well of others. (Prov 6:19; 11:9)
  3. Be Peacemakers. (Matt 5:9)
  4. Do not argue. (Prov 20:3; 2 Tim 2:23-26)
  5. Restrain your lips. (Prov 10:19; 15:28; 12:18; 13:3; James 1:19, 26)

**C. Righteous actions/behavior** – do what is right. (Matt 25:31-46; 1 John 2:29; Ps 106:3; Prov 11:6; Eph 4:1-3)

1. Desire to please God in all that you do - delight in keeping God's commandments - seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. (Ps 1:1,2; 40:8; 119:16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77,143,174; Matt 6:33)
2. Be responsible. (1 Tim 5:8; Prov 12:11; 28:19; 2 Thes 3:10)
3. Control your anger. (Prov 16:32; Eph 4:26-27; James 1:19-20)
4. Never take your own revenge - overcome evil with good. (Rom 12:17-21)
5. Be kind to others - be full of mercy and compassion. (Matt 5:7; Prov 12:10; Eph 4:32)
6. Be bold and courageous. (Prov 28:1)
7. Be just. (Prov 12:5; 16:8; 21:3,15; 29:27; Jn 7:24)
8. Practice humility - don't be prideful, vain, arrogant, or boastful. (Prov 11:2; 21:4; Zeph 2:3; Rom 12:3,16; Ps 20:7; Prov 27:1; Jer 98:23,24; Eph 2:8-9; 1 Pet 5:5)
9. Stand up for the poor, persecuted and the afflicted. (Prov 29:7; Lk 14:12-14; James 1:27)
10. Have no high places – practice discretion in TV, music, books, magazines, internet activity, social media, use of AI, etc – let nothing come before God or distract us from our walk with Him. (Php 3:7-11; 2 Cor 10:5; 2 Chron 31:1; 34:3; Ps 101:3; Ex 20:2-5; Prov 3:21-24)

**D. Reckoned as Righteous** - take on God's Righteousness thru faith in Christ. (Php 3:9-11; 1 Pet 2:24; 2 Cor 5:21; Eph4:22-24; Eccl 7:20; Ps 143:2; Rom 3:22-24, 26; 5:17-21; 10:6-10; Isa 64:6; Hab 2:4; Lk 18:9-14; Heb 11; Ps 23, 24:3-6; John 17:3; Eph 2:8,9) *the following is taken from the "Four Spiritual Laws" booklet.*

1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life. (Jn 3:16; Jn10:10)
2. Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life. (Rom 3:23; Rom 6:23)
3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life. (Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 15:3-6; John 14:6)
4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. (John 1:12; Eph 2:8,9; John 3:1-8; Rev 3:20; 1 John 5:11-13; Heb 13:5)

## **Prayer to Begin Your Relationship to God thru Jesus**

Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God, that you died on the cross to rescue me from sin and death and to restore me to the Father. I choose now to turn from my sins, my self-centeredness, and every part of my life that does not please you. I choose you. I give myself to you. I receive your forgiveness and ask you to take your rightful place in my life as my Savior and Lord. Come reign in my heart, fill me with your love and your life, and help me to become a person who is truly loving—a person like you. Restore me, Jesus. Live in me. Love through me. Thank you, God. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

(prayer from [Wild At Heart](#) website)

# STAND OUT

II. **STAND OUT from the crowd** - lead courageously, accept responsibility – godly leadership. (1 Cor 1:18,23-25; Rom 12:1,2; 1 John 2:15-17; James 1:27; Eph 4:17-19, 22-24)

A. **Stand out in the way you live your life** – personal lifestyle. (Rom 12:1,2)

1. Seek God with all your heart. (Ps 119:2; Deut 6:5; Matt 6:33)
2. Do not love the world. (1 John 2:15-17; Rom 12:1-2; John 17:15,16)
3. Exercise self control - Rudyard Kipling "If". (1 Cor 9:25; Gal 5:22,23; Titus 1:7-9; 2 Pet 1:5-9)
4. Guard your eyes. (Job 31:1; Ps 101:3; 2 Sam 11:2; Ex 20:17; 1 John 2:16)
5. Be giving, not greedy. (Prov 21:25,26; Ps 37:21, 112:5)
6. Have a transcendent cause – desire to please God in all that you do - keep life in perspective. (Ps 84; Col 1:9,10; 1 Thes 4:1)
7. Reflect God's grace in all that you do. (Col 4:6; Acts 6:8; 13:43; John 1:16; Rev 22:21; 2 Pet 3:17,18; Heb 13:25)
8. Trust God – do not lean on your own understanding. (Prov 3:5,6; Matt 6:34)
9. Seek wisdom, understanding and truth - not riches or self-glorification. (Ps 111:10; 1 Tim 6:10-11; Prov 1:7; 2:2-16; 3:13,18; 4:5-8; 8:10,11; 9:10; 10:13; 19:8; 23:23; 24:3; 24:14; 29:3; Heb 13:5)

B. **Stand out in how you relate to others** – relational style. (Matt 20:25-28)

1. Be selfless, concerned about the welfare of others. (Php 2:1-8, 20, 21; Matt 20:25,28; Rom 14)
2. Be relationship oriented instead of task oriented. (Lk 10:38-42)
3. Be patient and kind. (1 Cor 13:4; Gal 5:22,23)
4. Love others – self-sacrificing care for others. (John 15:12,13; 1 Cor 13)
5. Treat others as you would have them treat you. (Rom 15:2,3; Matt 22:36-40)

C. **Stand out in how you do your work** – work ethic. (Col 3:22,23)

1. Do your best in all that you do - pursue excellence in all things. (Mt 5:13-16; 1 Cor 6:19-20; Rom 15:1-7; Rev 14:6-7; Col 3:23-24)
2. Do everything without complaining or arguing. (Php 2:14)
3. Do not waste time or procrastinate. (Prov 6:6-11; 10:5; 20:4)
4. Practice DEI – Drive and Determination, Excellence in all that you do and going the Extra mile, Intelligence and Integrity. (2 Peter 1:5-7; James 1:12; Gal 6:9; Php 4:13; Col 3:23-24; Romans 5:3-4; Mt 5:41; 1 Cor 6:19-20; Prov 11:3; Prov 2:6-8; 1 Chron 29:17; James 3:17; Psalm 15:1-2; Prov 10:9)

## STAND FIRM

- III. **STAND FIRM in your faith - in what you believe** - reject passivity – men of integrity – have a significant impact for Christ. (1 Cor 16:13; Eph 6:12-18; Prov 25:26; 11:19; Heb 10:38,39; Prov 11:3; 2 Pet 2:21,22; Php 3:12-14; 4:1; 1 Pet 5:12; 2 Pet 3:17,18; Col 1:21-23; 2 Thes 2:15; 1 Pet 5:12)
- A. **Stand firm against the flesh** – inner temptations. (Rom 13:14; 6:6-23; Rom 7; Rom 8:1-15; Gal 5:13-24; 6:7-10)
1. Strive to live pure and holy lives. (1 Pet 1:14-16; Rom 12:1,2; Eph 1:3,4; 4:24; 1 Tim 1:5; James 3:17; 4:8; 1 John 3:3; Matt 5:8; 2 Cor 7:1; Prov 22:11)
  2. Be disciplined men. (1 Tim 4:7,8; 2 Tim 1:7; Eph 6:4; Heb 12:5-11; Prov 3:11; 6:23; 12:1; 13:1,18; 15:5,32; 19:18,20, 27; 22:15; 23:12,13; 29:15; Rev 3:19)
  3. Turn away from sin. (Ezek 33:13, 18; Ps 7:11,12; Ezek 18:32; Matt 3:2; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:11)
  4. Resist temptation. (1 Cor 10:13; Eph 6:13; Matt 6:9-13; 26:41)
  5. Be steadfast, immovable. (Prov 11:19; Is 26:3; 1 Cor 15:58; Col 1:21-23; Ps 112:5-7)
- B. **Stand firm against the world** – cultural pressure. (Rom 12:1,2; Mk 4:18,19; 1 John 2:15-17)
1. Choose your friends wisely - stand together with other believers – do not hang out with the ungodly. (2 Cor 6:14; Prov 13:20; Ps 1:1; 1 Cor 15:33)
  2. Don't compromise - men of integrity. (Ps 15:1,2; 26:1,2,11; 7:8; 101:2; Prov 2:6,7; 10:9; 11:3; 19:1; 20:7; 28:6)
  3. Know how to say no. (Eph 6:13; 1 Cor 16:13; 2 Thes 2:15)
  4. Don't be distracted by the deceitfulness of riches and the worries of the world. (Mark 4:18,19; James; 1 Tim 6:7-11)
  5. Follow Jesus instead of following the crowd. (Eph 4:14,15,17-19; James 1:6-8)
  6. Be loyal and faithful. (Prov 17:17; 18:24; 27:6)
- C. **Stand firm against evil** – the schemes of the devil. (James 4:7; Eph 6:10-18)
1. Tell others about Jesus. (1 Cor 2:4,5; Matt 28:18-20; 2 Tim 4:2-5)
  2. Resist the devil. (James 4:7; 1 Pet 5:8,9)
  3. Persevere under trial. (Matt 5:10-12; 1 Pet 3:14-15; 2 Peter 1:5-7; James 1:12)

### Why Take a Stand?

- Everlasting life is not something we earn or strive to achieve, but is a free gift from God through His Son Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-17)
- As Jesus taught us when he was at the Rabbi's house and the woman washed His feet, we take the three stands because of gratitude for what Christ has done for us. He who is forgiven much, loves much. (Luke 7:36-50)
- God delivered us from slavery first, then gave us the 10 Commandments. (Exodus 20:1–17) We are saved by grace, not as a result of works. First comes salvation, then good works follow. (Ephesians 2:1-22; James 2:14-26)