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# **Justice**

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An Apostolic School of Ministry



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## **Acknowledgments**

Holy Spirit is the inspiration for the content of this book, however someone put words to it. This book was written by Paula Green.

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Many thanks to the team of writers of the series for their collaboration to make the series available to the public. The writers are: Lauren Caldwell, Jessica Doggett, Danetta Ferguson, Paula Green, Elisa Griffith, Nancy Hadley, Robin Harmon, Brandy Helton, Grant Hill, and Kevin McSpadden. Each have sought Holy Spirit for the words He wants to speak through them. The result is a mixture of personalities and communication strategies that convey the total message in a beautiful, diverse way.

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## **Encouragement and Prayer for the Reader**

Beloved of God, these teachings are written to reveal Jesus Christ and His heart of love for all who call upon His name to save them.

God has sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to save all who would believe in Him and His Word.

God desires to reveal Himself and to give us His divine nature in Christ Jesus our Lord through the power of His Holy Spirit.

God is Jealous. He wants us to encounter His presence daily and walk with Him in glory – intimate communion - today, while it is called today, and forever.

It is my prayer that this teaching would so impact the readers that all would come to know and believe JESUS, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Great God and Savior, and receive the PERFECT LOVE He has for us all as we grow up into Him and mature as true sons and daughters of God.

May you grow in faith and knowledge of your God and Savior and come to know the love that He has for you. I pray for you the Apostle Paul's prayer for spiritual growth:

**Ephesians 3:14-21 The Living Bible (TLB)**

*"14-15 When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth— 16 that out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit. 17 And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; 18-19 and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.*

*20 Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. 21 May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages because of his master plan of salvation for the Church through Jesus Christ."*

In Christ our Lord,  
Brandy Helton  
A child of God



## God's Love

God's love is good news! Don't believe the lie that God is distant, unapproachable, and angry!

God is love. He is the only true, eternal God. He is perfect and holy, and He is truth. God is One. He has revealed Himself in three distinct, individual, equal persons: God the Father, God the Son – Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells the story of God's perfect love. In that love, God created the first family to live on the earth with Him. Through their deep intimate relationship with the Father, Adam and Eve were meant to fulfill all that was in God's heart on Earth just like it is in Heaven, for God's glory and purposes. Adam and Eve were chosen to walk with God, clothed in His glory presence and were perfect, as He is perfect, and they lived in His beautiful garden, the secret place called Eden. He gave them His breath, life and power to have dominion over all He created and wanted them to reproduce that LIFE replenishing the earth with it, until all the earth is filled with His glory.

### **Genesis 1:26-28**

*"26 Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our*

*image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”*

God created His children in His likeness. He made them spirit beings, with a soul – mind, will and emotions – and placed them in a physical body. He gave His children the choice to love Him and to walk with Him in obedience to His every word. He gave the first family the power to overcome any temptation offered to them through God’s adversary, the devil, who had rebelled against the Most High God in Heaven’s glory and was cast down to the earth. The devil, Satan, brought great darkness and chaos prior to Adam and Eve’s existence.

Adam and Eve were deceived into thinking that God was not perfect in love as Satan, the adversary, tempted them to believe that God would not keep His Word to them. Through their own will, Adam and Eve disobeyed the Father by eating from a tree that had the power to open their eyes to both good and evil. Through their choice of disobedience, they willfully gave their inheritance and authority over to the devil and his kingdom. Sin entered mankind, which produced death, eternal separation from a Holy God. Adam and Eve were banished from the dwelling and intima-

cy of perfection in the garden and were sent into the world as a fallen creation.

Father God knew He had to come Himself and save His family, and in His wisdom, He chose to send His Son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us and restore fallen mankind back to relationship with Him. Through His Son, He destroyed all the works of the devil and the curse of death. Hebrews 9:22 says, *“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”* Remission means to cancel the penalty, so according to the law there must be shedding of blood to cancel the penalty for sin. The Father cancelled the penalty for the sins of His children through the shedding of the blood of His innocent, holy Son Jesus, who was the Sent One, called and chosen to die for all, so all could live.

**John 3:16-21**

*“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may*

*be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”*

Jesus was conceived by God’s Holy Spirit in the womb of a young virgin named Mary. He appeared as the second Adam, in the flesh, with the choice to walk in perfect love and obedience, full of God’s Spirit, as a man to do the will of His Father.

Jesus grew up as any male child did in the flesh but He had divine fellowship with His Father and Holy Spirit. At the appointed time, He was revealed as being sent from God to save. Jesus went around doing good and healed all who were oppressed by the devil spiritually and physically. He revealed His Father’s heart and perfect love to all who believed through His teachings, grace and miraculous power.

Salvation means eternal life, healing, deliverance, protection, peace, wholeness, and forgiveness. Salvation came to all men through the cross, where the Son of God, the perfect One, was slaughtered as a lamb, bearing all sin for all times from a fallen people. Jesus bore the wrath of God against the darkness that separated God’s family from Him. Jesus was punished for our sin and died to cleanse us from the guilt, shame and condemnation sin produces. Sin separates. Love restores.

Jesus was crucified, dead and buried, spending three days and nights in the depths of Hades, the realm of the dead fallen race. Jesus took back the keys of death and hell from that old serpent the devil, Satan, and therefore, all authority was restored back to Jesus.

Great Holy Spirit breathed LIFE into Jesus and raised Him from the dead. He appeared to His disciples, those who followed Him and obeyed His teachings. He showed them that He conquered sin, death and the grave and now, had the keys of hell and death, and would give ETERNAL LIFE to ALL who chose to believe in Him. King Jesus ascended back to the Father of glory where He ever lives to make intercession for us all, and He is coming again to the earth in power to establish His Father's Kingdom on Earth.

Jesus Christ is the head and Lord over His church, those who have made Him Lord and Savior, by believing He is the Son of the Living God and God in the flesh, who finished the work the Father gave Him to do. He not only died for our sins to save and heal us, He chose to give His authority to those He called and chose to follow Him as His disciples, His family.

Jesus has commissioned His followers to do the same works that He did while He lived on the earth.

**John 14:12-14**

*“12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”*

God loves us and desires that none should perish. He desires for His family to be with Him where He

is. These books are written to inspire all who read them and to reveal the heart of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and Holy Spirit in order that we might RECEIVE THE LOVE HE HAS FOR US and be CHANGED INTO HIS VERY LIKENESS. God desires to dwell with His family forever and ever just as He did in the beginning. How glorious it is to live in His presence and dominion, beholding His goodness, forever and ever, amen.

The book of Revelation describes the time that is coming when all things are made new according to God's heart of love:

**Revelation 21:1-7**

*"1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' 6 And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be*

*My son.”*

To understand what is presented in the Bible, you must start by understanding God’s love. The good news is that God loves you!





## **The Heart of It**

Describing justice is much like describing “love” or “motherhood.” You can give definitions for these words, but true understanding of justice, just like love or motherhood, comes from embracing it fully and carrying it out personally. For followers of Jesus, justice is a lifestyle. So, what is justice? Simply put, justice is the quality of being just (righteous) or fair. Man’s understanding of justice is often based on the relevant culture of the day, along with rewards and punishments. Justice, much like truth, is not determined by what we think, nor is it based on society’s opinions, but it is based on Who God IS. Without truth, there is no real justice. Without God, there is no truth. God’s justice is perfect because He is the Spirit of Truth. The following pages are intended to help the reader gain a better understanding of God’s justice and His underlying perfection that pursues us and powerfully impacts our entire world.



## Justice

God's perfect justice was first displayed in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve chose disobedience. When Eve was tempted by Satan to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, she stated that the fruit looked good. To her eyes, it appeared beneficial, but it was not right, as God had already commanded them *not to eat the fruit of that tree*.

### **Genesis 3:6-7**

*“6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”*

Because God establishes the foundation of truth, His justice is always perfect. Contrary to what some may believe, God's justice is not punishment, but correction. Had Adam and Eve stayed in the garden, they would have lived forever in the darkness of their sin. As a result, they would have been permanently separated from God. Therefore,

while it may appear that God punished Adam and Eve, what He actually did was serve them His perfect justice, which made redemption possible. Understood correctly, God's removal of His first children from Eden was actually rooted in mercy – it was a chance to receive God's correction, repent, and be restored into right relationship with Him.

However, sin had taken root in fallen man as we see in some of Adam and Eve's descendants, who continued in disobedience. Here we find their son, Cain, murdering his brother, Abel, over a jealous dispute:

**Genesis 4:3-10**

*“3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” 8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?” 10 And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.”*

Abel's blood was crying for justice through ven-

geance, but God had a plan to satisfy justice through Christ Jesus.

**Hebrews 12:24 (NLT)**

*“24 You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.”*

The blood of Jesus brings justice through the forgiveness of sin for all mankind. It was God’s perfect plan to correct us, to make us RIGHT again. So, you see, God’s justice looks different from what most human minds would expect, and that is a good thing! The Bible also reveals how God’s heavenly dominion is rooted in justice and connected to His unchanging love.

**Psalms 89:14 (ESV)**

*“14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.”*

Since the rebellion and fall of mankind in Eden, lawlessness has sought to rule and overtake justice. Lawlessness is a stubborn refusal to live according to God’s ways. It can also refer to a rejection of the earthly authorities God has put in place. All lawlessness is a result of obeying Satan rather than God, just as Adam and Eve did. Nevertheless, Jesus was perfectly obedient because He loved the truth and hated wickedness.

**Hebrews 1:9a**

*“9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness.”*

Jesus is our model for justice, and He desires His believers to receive His righteousness and walk in obedience to the word of God.

**1 John 3:4**

*“4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”*

Many would rather avoid these verses on justice and choose instead to only focus on God’s love, mercy, and forgiveness. There are several reasons for that avoidance. If we are walking in compromise with sin, we will fear justice. We will not want to talk about it or see it in His word. If we are walking in outright willful disobedience, we will run from His justice. When we want it “our way” and work to change laws and culture to try and make sin not be sin, we will pervert justice. For true justice to occur, we must acknowledge and submit to God’s perfect ways. Otherwise, as humans, we will always miss or fall short of administering genuine, pure justice. That means obedience is essential for anyone who truly loves justice.

Even those who claim to have great spiritual gifts but are not walking in obedience to God’s word are not allowing Holy Spirit to do the perfect work of righteousness within them, and in the end, it will not go well for them. Jesus Himself spoke of this very offense.

**Matthew 7:21-23**

*“21 ‘Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many*

*will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”*

Everything, including justice, goes back to our relationship with God through Jesus and the presence of Holy Spirit within us. So, as we look around and see all the unjust circumstances in this fallen world, our call is to co-labor with the Father to bring His kingdom and His will to Earth as it is in Heaven. Jesus specifically taught us to pray for the perfect will of God, which inevitably leads to justice.

**Matthew 6:10**

*“10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

With Jesus’s prayer in mind, we may ask, “What are some of the circumstances into which God desires to manifest His justice?” Orphans, widows, the slave trade, sex trafficking, abortion, addiction, racism, domestic violence, neglecting the elderly, poverty, and many more issues that today’s culture has labeled as “social justice” are actual opportunities for believers to demonstrate the true justice of God.

An overwhelmed yet immature believer will see these injustices and cry out to God to “fix it.” But the mature and growing church learns to lean into God, using His wisdom to bring justice to the people. The book of Habakkuk reveals this very thing to us.

**Habakkuk 1:2-4 (NLT)**

*“2 How long, O Lord, must I call for help?  
But you do not listen!  
“Violence is everywhere!” I cry,  
but you do not come to save.  
3 Must I forever see these evil deeds?  
Why must I watch all this misery?  
Wherever I look,  
I see destruction and violence.  
I am surrounded by people  
who love to argue and fight.  
4 The law has become paralyzed,  
and there is no justice in the courts.  
The wicked far outnumber the righteous,  
so that justice has become perverted.”*

The Lord responds:

**Habakkuk 1:6 (NLT)**

*“6 I am raising up the Babylonians,  
a cruel and violent people.  
They will march across the world  
and conquer other lands.  
7 They are notorious for their cruelty  
and do whatever they like.*

This reply was not exactly the answer one would be looking for! Habakkuk later replies:

**Habakkuk 1:12 (NLT)**

*“12 O Lord my God, my Holy One, you who are eternal—  
surely you do not plan to wipe us out?  
O Lord, our Rock, you have sent these Babylo-  
nians to correct us, to punish us for our many  
sins.”*



Habakkuk was crying out to God for all the injustices he saw in the others around him. Once God shared His plan to send correction, Habakkuk realized that included him! From that point on, Habakkuk began to identify with his nation, through his prayers, as his focus changed from “them” to “us.” Habakkuk moved from a “fix it” prayer to the fear of the Lord and trusting in Him. The dialogue continued back and forth until the revelation of God’s perfect justice was secured in the heart of the prophet and spoken as a prayer to God:

**Habakkuk 3:16b-18 (NLT)**

*“16b I will wait quietly for the coming day  
when disaster will strike the people who invade us.*

*17 Even though the fig trees have no blossoms,  
and there are no grapes on the vines;  
even though the olive crop fails,  
and the fields lie empty and barren;  
even though the flocks die in the fields,  
and the cattle barns are empty,*

*18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord!  
I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!”*

This is what total trust in the God of Justice looks like when God is bringing correction to a nation, a city, a family, or an individual. It does not take much insight to know when someone has been unjust against us. But as we grow in relationship with God, we will begin to see and understand injustice against others around us. We may even see how we personally play a part in injustice and recognize our need for repentance and forgiveness. Ultimately, we begin to see our own personal offenses toward God as sin, and injustice

against Him becomes more and more apparent.

Throughout the Bible, it is evident that justice is a major theme as we see God working on behalf of the oppressed and especially the poor. God's justice calls for us to align with His perspective as there is a major difference between humanistic compassion and mercy versus Godly compassion and mercy.

**Deuteronomy 32:4**

*“4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect;  
For all His ways are justice,  
A God of truth and without injustice;  
Righteous and upright is He.”*

**Psalm 37:6**

*“6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as  
the light, and your justice as the noonday.”*

**Psalm 140:12**

*“12 I know that the Lord will maintain the cause  
of the afflicted, And justice for the poor.”*

As you can see from these passages, God is always working to bring His perfect justice into every situation or circumstance. That's in His nature, and He does not change.

Now, one could easily sit back, do nothing, and “let God work His justice,” but this mindset will lead to frustration when nothing seems to change. One could also take the work upon themselves, as though God is too distant to actually help, but this will lead to burnout. God created man to be in relationship with Him. God secures that relationship through Jesus Christ, and He empow-

ers His followers with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives the believer authority to co-labor with God and with each other. People literally become God's hands and feet in helping the poor and oppressed through wisdom and creative ideas from the Holy Spirit.

Through kindness, acts of love, and meeting needs, a Christian can draw people to Christ and give opportunity for the poor and oppressed to see the creative, supernatural God Who is alive and active, working justice for those who are with Him. In this way, not only is man empowered and encouraged, but God Himself is glorified.

## **JUSTICE THROUGH GOVERNMENT**

The Bible makes clear that Jesus is Lord of all, and He governs with truth and justice.

### **Isaiah 9:6-7**

*“6 For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
7 Of the increase of His government and peace  
There will be no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and  
justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”*

So, we see from the previous passage that God intends Jesus to be the head of His government, and

that government will be established with justice. That is the promise of God, but the truly remarkable part is that God calls believers to co-labor with Him in this fallen world through prayer and service with and under those in authority in order to see this promise come to pass. Look at what the apostle Paul teaches about this co-laboring effort:

**1 Timothy 2:1-2**

*“1 Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”*

Paul’s encouragement makes clear that prayer is a huge part of seeing God’s kingdom, and thus His justice. Wise rulers have made prayer a part of their reign. King Solomon, filled with wisdom, prayed boldly, even for himself. He prayed that God would give him a love for justice so that the poor would be treated fairly, that they would be defended, that the children of the needy would be rescued, and that the oppressors would be crushed.

**Psalms 72:1-2, 4**

*“1 Give the king Your judgments, O God,  
And Your righteousness to the king’s Son.  
2 He will judge Your people with righteousness,  
And Your poor with justice.  
4 He will bring justice to the poor of the people;  
He will save the children of the needy,  
And will break in pieces the oppressor.”*

Along with effective prayer, some will be called to

take action. As ambassadors of the kingdom of God, it is important for believers to serve in government by running for office or working alongside elected officials to enact policies that are just and right. Nations that honor God in the highest forms of government are blessed of the Lord.

**Psalm 33:12a**

*“12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”*

The call for nations to recognize God’s sovereignty is directly connected to justice. As with all things, God is the ultimate authority where justice is concerned.

**James 4:12a (NIV)**

*“12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy.”*

Therefore, those nations who commit to God’s ways, who trust Him, and who obey Him faithfully will reap the blessing of God’s justice. Nations who reject God position themselves as His enemies. That’s why believers in all nations should commit themselves to praying fervently for their nation, their leaders, and for God’s will to be done wherever they live.

The principles of God’s justice have ramifications for individuals as well. In a court of law, those found guilty must pay for the crime, either through money, time in prison, or even death. Sin, just like lawlessness, requires a payment in order to make things right. Without Jesus, we are without hope because our sins carry a death penalty.

**Romans 3:23**

*“23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

**Romans 6:23**

*“23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Fortunately, because of the Father’s love, Jesus Christ took our punishment for sin and made us right with God. Remember that, with God, justice is rooted in love, and it is focused on setting things right. There is no better expression of God’s justice than Jesus’s sacrifice on our behalf:

**Hebrews 9:24-28 (NIV)**

*“24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”*

For the believer, Jesus Christ is our SURETY (a person who is legally responsible for the debt, default, or delinquency of another) as we become a bondservant of Christ, bound to Him in love. He guarantees our salvation through His covenant

promise of eternal love.

**Hebrews 7:22**

*“22 by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.” (NKJV)*

*“22 Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.” (NIV)*

As we learned from Isaiah 9:7 above, the increase (greatness) and peace of the government of Jesus will never end. He is working and desires to partner with us through the governing of nations, down to the individuals that make up those nations. God’s desire since the Garden of Eden has been for His people to receive His love, live in His way, and be a part of His perfect justice. Our prayers and our obedience go a long way to assist in the justice of God working in the world. As you will soon see, whether you hold a position of leadership or not, you have a part to play in working out the justice of God.

**WORKING JUSTICE**

At this point, you may be asking, “What is my role in seeking and revealing God’s justice?” The passage below gives a glimpse of God’s heart for justice:

**Psalm 82:3-4**

*“3 Defend the poor and fatherless;  
Do justice to the afflicted and needy.  
4 Deliver the poor and needy;  
Free them from the hand of the wicked.”*

In this passage, God commands His people to de-

fend those who are poor, to bring justice to those who are needy. Therefore, one way believers manifest justice is to minister to those living in poverty. However, do not make the mistake of defining poverty as a lack of finances. Poverty is more than merely lacking money - it is an unfortunate consequence of our fallen world that began when Adam and Eve left the garden of God's presence.

**Genesis 3:17-18**

*"17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake;  
In toil you shall eat of it  
All the days of your life.*

*18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,  
And you shall eat the herb of the field."*

Over time, through generations, poverty becomes an ungodly lifestyle from which one must be delivered. It is not unusual for a church, non-profit organization, or even the government to give someone money only to see them continue to behave with a poverty mindset. But that was never God's intent. Jesus reconciled (exchanged) our poverty for the richness of heaven through blood that was shed at the cross, specifically through the crown of thorns.

**Matthew 27:27-31**

*"27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. 28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they*



*had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified." (Emphasis added)*

The same thorns and thistles we toll through in this fallen world became the crown pierced into the skull of Jesus to bring forth the blood of redemption. Therefore, whatever we lack, Jesus will fill. He has delivered us from striving in our own strength to simply get by and brought us into a life of abundance.

**John 10:10**

*"10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*

As we co-labor with the Holy Spirit in ministry to the poor, we must walk in this faith of deliverance. We must also carry out the words of faith to accomplish God's perfect justice.

**James 2:14-17**

*"14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it*

*profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”*

As we see the effects of the fallen world and the imbalance of wealth across the earth, it can be disheartening. When our natural eyes look upon perceived disparity, the human tendency is to question God’s ability to render justice. When it seems that justice is not being served according to man’s ideas or timetables, bitterness can take root in the heart. This is what happened to Judas.

**Matthew 26:6-16**

*“6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. 8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.”*

*10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. 11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. 12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. 13 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”*

*14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity*

*to betray Him.”*

As Judas contemplated Jesus speaking of His death and burial, he realized that his hopes of Jesus becoming a worldly king were over. He wanted his perceived injustice fixed, which, in his mind, meant someone to lead a revolution and finally elevate the Jews out of the heavy taxation and poverty enforced by the Roman empire that governed in that day. Judas saw the lavish demonstration of the expensive oil as a waste because he did not fully understand Who Jesus was and what He was about to do, which was to redeem mankind once and for all. In his heart, Judas questioned Jesus' ability, or even desire, to bring justice.

However, Jesus perfectly demonstrated the justice of His Father in every situation. It just didn't always look how other people thought it should. How did Jesus, who could at any point have blinked His eyes and made everything perfect, handle the injustices before Him? He only did what He heard the Father say and He is our model in all things.

**John 5:19, 30**

*“19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”*

*“30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”*

Jesus trusted the Father in all things, and He asks us to do the same.

**Luke 12:29-32**

*“29 “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. 30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. 31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.”*

*“32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”*

Therefore, we must focus on obeying God and not so much on trying to “fix” the problem. We trust that God will show us what to do, when to do it, and how to get it done. However, we must not let that turn into complacency or hard-heartedness toward those in poverty. God notices when we ignore the poor. Mocking or making fun of the poor is actually an insult to God Himself.

**Proverbs 17:5 (NLT)**

*“5 Those who mock the poor insult their Maker; those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished.”*

**Proverbs 14:21, 31 (NLT)**

*“21 It is a sin to belittle one’s neighbor; blessed are those who help the poor.”*

*“31 Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him. On the other hand, if you help the poor, you are actually lending to the Lord, and He will repay you!”*

**Proverbs 19:17 (NLT)**

*“17 If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—and he will repay you!”*

**Proverbs 28:27 (NLT)**

*“27 Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed.”*

**Psalms 41:1-3**

*“1 Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor!*

*The Lord rescues them when they are in trouble.*

*2 The Lord protects them and keeps them alive. He gives them prosperity in the land and rescues them from their enemies.*

*3 The Lord nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health.”*

In summary, working justice means co-laboring with the Holy Spirit by modeling Jesus in doing only what we see the Father doing and speaking only what we hear the Father say. We work justice by knowing His word, obeying Him fully, and trusting in Him for the final outcome, His perfect justice.

**FALSE JUSTICE MOVEMENT**

Any social justice movement using words like “compassion” and “tolerance,” but not based on the word of God, or one that is working on a perversion of the word of God, is not true justice. Many such movements operate out of a false foundation, teaching that humans are “basically good” and relying on human principles to bring a type of

justice that falls short of God’s true justice. Humans are actually sinful and in need of a savior.

**Romans 5:12 (NLT)**

*“12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.”*

**Psalms 51:5**

*“5 For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.”*

A false justice movement denies the need for a savior and will often pervert truth and prey on emotions to further its own agenda. These movements will rely on reasoning, science, and human fulfillment in the natural world, rejecting the importance of a belief in God and the saving power of Jesus.

However, it is futile to fight injustice with our own carnal reasoning or worldly knowledge.

**Ephesians 6:12**

*“12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

**2 Corinthians 10:3-6**

*“3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every*

*thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”*

Through Jesus Christ, the battle is already won, and the Holy Spirit has been sent to empower the church to enforce it.

The Holy Spirit is here to convict the world of sin AND of righteousness. That is good news! Before Jesus died, rose back to life, and ascended to the Father, He told us of the work of Holy Spirit, our Advocate for God’s perfect justice.

**John 16:7-11 (NLT)**

*“7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.” (emphasis added)*

Concerning our enemy, the highest Judge, Father God, has said “Guilty as charged,” stripping Satan of all authority and sentencing him to death row, where he awaits the fulfillment of that judgment.

**Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10 (NLT)**

*“1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the*

*Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”*

*“7 When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. 8 He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. 9 And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God’s people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them. 10 Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (emphasis added)*

There is no appeal, for his case has already gone before the highest authority, the Supreme One, God Himself. It is done! It is finished through the death and resurrection of Jesus. However, Satan, the father of lies, will continue to work to deceive mankind by twisting, perverting, and mixing lies with truth to persuade us to compromise our beliefs.

**John 8:42, 44**

*“42 Jesus told them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me.”*



*“44 For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

Beware of any “justice movement” that denies the need for our Savior, Jesus. Good intentions to relieve injustice that deny or pervert the word of God will only draw people to darkness.

As a believer working for justice, it is crucial for us to know the word of God, who God is, and who we are in Christ.

## **JUSTICE BRINGS PERSECUTION**

As followers of Jesus, His beloved bride, we are to live as an example to others in all godliness, with peaceful lives, extending forgiveness to others, while standing courageously for truth and justice. That lifestyle will inevitably come with a degree of persecution, as the Bible teaches:

### **Romans 12:14-21**

*“14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably*

*with all men.* 19 Beloved do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Emphasis added)

As the verses above show, many have been and will continue to be persecuted for righteousness. Those bound by the world and its fallen nature will often reject God’s justice and actively work to harm those who attempt to manifest or embody it. The Holy Spirit foresaw this and gave believers a great deal of encouragement so that we would not allow persecution to stop us.

**2 Timothy 3:12**

*“12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*

**Mark 13:9**

*“9 “But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them.”*

Jesus even left instructions for those who are innocent and imprisoned for His sake.

**Mark 13:11**

*“11 But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who*

*...speak, but the Holy Spirit.”*

Again, an immature believer may see the potential consequences of living out true justice and respond by hiding or running from it. However, the scriptures above reveal something greater than the persecution: the honor and privilege of suffering for and with Jesus in order to reveal Him to the world. Not only that, but those who are persecuted enjoy the fellowship and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul suffered greatly for his obedience to Jesus, yet hear his testimony concerning his persecution:

**Romans 8:18**

*“18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

Let's take heart in the understanding that God is with us in persecution, and our obedience in producing His justice will empower us to reap His rewards, both now and in the age to come.



## Conclusion

John Paul Jackson wrote, “God is the righteous Judge of all creation, unbiased and impartial. He is the King of kings. His statues rejoice the heart! He is the One Who makes unbreakable covenants with men. He is holy, pure, and undefiled. He is God, beside Him, there is no other god. His testimony is sure, and His commandments enlighten the eyes. Kings humble themselves before Him. He is the Spirit of Wisdom and He is the Law. He will judge the living and the dead. He is the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord. He is perfect knowledge. No one can reverse His acts.” (Excerpt from the album *An Experience in Worship, I AM -365 Names of God*)

God’s justice is perfect and works to free all who would call upon His Name because He is the Spirit of Truth.

### **John 8:32**

*“32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

Now THAT is justice.



## **Prayer for Salvation**

If you have not made Jesus Christ your personal Lord and Savior, and you desire this with all your heart, then please, join me in prayer:

*“Heavenly Father, I choose to believe with all my heart, Your love for me. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son, the Son of God, and that He is God in the flesh. I believe that You sent Him to this earth to save me. Thank You. I believe He died on the cross for my sins and He was dead and buried three days, and then rose again from the dead and that He ascended to Heaven and is now seated at Your right hand and is returning again.*

*Father, please forgive me for all my sin and iniquity and I choose to forgive others who have sinned against me. I give You all my heart and choose to live with You forever. I believe I have been born again according to Your Word and that I have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light. I declare I am forgiven and healed! Now, I ask for Holy Spirit to fill me. Jesus, baptize me in Holy Spirit and fullness in order that I may know You intimately and serve You all my days.*

*Thank You, Lord, for loving me. Amen.”*

**Scriptures:**

**John 14:6**

*“6 Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”*

**Romans 10:8-13**

*“8 But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”*

**John 3:3-8, 16-18**

*“3 Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ 4 Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ 5 Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said*



to you, “You must be born again.” 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.’”

### **II Corinthians 5:17**

“17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

### **I Corinthians 15:3-5**

“3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”

### **II Corinthians 5:21**

“21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

### **Colossians 1:13-14**

“13 He has delivered us from the power of dark-

ness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

**Luke 11:9-13**

“9 So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

**Acts 1:8**

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**I Timothy 3:16**

“16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

*God was manifested in the flesh,  
Justified in the Spirit,  
Seen by angels,  
Preached among the Gentiles,  
Believed on in the world,  
Received up in glory.”*

## **Fresh Infilling of Holy Spirit**

### **Acts 1:8**

*“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

If you have been born again and filled with Holy Spirit and you desire MORE and want to encounter the Lord's presence afresh and anew, please join me in prayer:

*“Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You for loving me and I ask according to Ephesians 1:17-19, that You would give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, Jesus, and the eyes of my understanding would be enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places. Amen.*

*Father, according to Colossians 3:9-12, I ask in Jesus name, that I would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that I would walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power. Amen.*

*I surrender and yield my life to the fullness of Holy Spirit; His power and anointing; the spirit of wisdom and revelation; counsel and might; the spirit of the fear of the Lord and knowledge according to Isaiah 11:2, in Jesus' name. Amen."*

## **The Garden Training Center, Inc. The Apostolic School of Ministry**

The Garden Apostolic Training Center is a place that fosters spiritual growth. The center provides training to equip believers in Jesus Christ for the work of the ministry and to be victorious and free in all areas of their lives through the supernatural empowerment of the Holy Spirit. For more information check out **thegardenstc.org**.

## **The Garden Gathering Church**

The purpose of The Garden Gathering Church is to encourage believers in Jesus Christ: to fully embrace the love of God; to walk in freedom; to carry His presence and glory; and to be equipped and trained for the work of the ministry through worship, teachings, and impartation.

*“It’s all about Love. When you see His eyes of Love for you, nothing else matters. That’s it. That’s all you need to know.”*

*-Brandy Helton*

