



I AM JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD!

The word “justified” has a pretty incredible meaning. It is used in legal settings, such as you would commonly hear in a television courtroom drama, and it means “acquitted of accusation and penalty, and declared righteous before the court!” When one is “justified,” the judge reads the words “not guilty” aloud, and all records of fault are expunged. The defendant exits the courtroom a free citizen, breathing in fresh air and greeting their loved ones as they dream of the future. **That’s** what Jesus did for you! Because of his sacrifice, you have been acquitted from all accusation, all guilt and all penalty. Beyond that, the great Judge, Creator and Sustainer of all things has convincingly declared you a morally right and virtuous citizen of his Kingdom! You can breathe in deeply. The accuser’s claim of your guilt has been torn up and rendered useless. Be free, righteous one! It’s time to dream of your secure future with the one who justified you!

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are *justified* freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24 – Emphasis added.

“Therefore, since we have been *justified* through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1 – Emphasis added.

“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who *justifies*. Who then is the one that condemns? No one.” Romans 8:33-34 – Emphasis added.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. *Is there any area of your life you struggle with a sense of shame about something you’ve done or who you fear you “really” are? Be honest to God, asking him to remove every lie. If you regularly struggle receiving what God says about your identity, read chapter 8 in “Life in the Overflow.”*
2. *Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. There is a big difference between God bringing us conviction of a specific sin or wrongdoing and being “guilty”. Because of the Cross, we will **never** be guilty again. It isn’t who we are anymore. At the same time, one of God’s most gracious gifts to us is his voice of correction for our own growth and wellbeing. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal if there is any action of which you need to repent. If he reveals any person you have wronged, ask him what he desires of you and obey what he says.*

PRAYER:

*Father, I thank you and today, I remember that **you** have declared me righteous. I choose to stand in faith on your Word, and I reject all lies of the enemy. (Reject any specific lies that you have believed about yourself, as stated in #1 above.) I am who **you** say I am. I am accepted. I am not a “sinner” saved by grace but a righteous son/daughter. I choose to breathe in my new freedom and nature. Teach me who I am now and silence the voice of every accuser.*

LISTENING TIME:

Stop for a few minutes and ask the Lord what he wants to say to you. He might bring to mind a picture, a word, a song, an encouragement, a Scripture or an answer to a burden in your heart. Don't rush or feel pressure to figure out the meaning of your impressions. Just invite him to speak and draw or write down what you sense. Afterward, ask God to help you discern and understand what he is saying to you. You might want to ask other trusted friends in the Kingdom for their input as well.

USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE TO RECORD WHAT GOD IS SAYING



TOOLS FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONS:

Talk about all that happens during a trial and how Jesus has taken our place as the guilty person. Pray and thank him for the incredible thing that he has done!

TOOLS FOR PRAYING FOR OTHERS:

Pray for someone who does not know Jesus to become aware not only of their need for sin to be paid but also for complete freedom.