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## ROMANS 4:1-5:2

Romans Series: How God Changes People

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day. We don't know what's going to happen in this day, but we do know you and we do know that you will guide us and lead us, protect us, provide for us in the course of this day. Lord, I pray that you would help us to see the interruptions that we experience as opportunities, that our emotions would be prepared for the challenges we might face as we look at this day so that we can gain the most of it and bless you in the interactions that we have.

Lord, we recognize that we are engaged in a spiritual battle. I suspect there are some people here that are oppressed by various things in their lives and they need the deliverance that you provide. I pray this morning that you would reveal that. Open up new pathways to who you are. I pray for those who are in relationships that are oppressed, challenged, where anger is a primary ingredient in the family. And I pray, Lord, that you would provide freedom. Teach us how to wrestle with the spiritual battles that exist. We just have to rely on truth and to come to you with prayer. Thank you for the privilege we have to access your power, to come into your presence.

Now, Lord, this morning right now we're going to open your word and we do so with anticipation, knowing that you speak to us whenever we do it. So I'm asking that you would speak to each one of us. Empower us with new ideas, new truth from your word that maybe we hadn't realized before. But make it relevant to our own hearts and lives so that we can go out of here changed people to serve you. So we ask for your blessing now. In Jesus' name, amen.

Each week I've been sharing with you the pieces of this device or technique about sharing Jesus with other people. Today I'm going to share the last one with you just so you know about what it is. If you would like one of these, by the way, they're sitting on the information table out there. They're designed to empower you with the information that you need to explain the plan of salvation to someone who might be interested.

I'm praying that everyone who comes to Calvary Chapel in the next several months would have an opportunity to share Jesus with someone, share the gospel with someone. That means when you're sharing Jesus, you're not just smiling more and opening the door for people. What we're saying is we're actually people about the Lord.

So the first one is recognizing that God is the source of salvation. He's our Creator, He loves us, and He's holy. But we have a problem. It's a sin problem and that causes all of us to fall short of God's glory. But God has a solution and that solution is Jesus Christ, His death on the cross, His

atonement for us. We were bought back so that we could have a relationship with Him. But we almost make a decision (that's the white one). There's a decision to accept Jesus Christ. It's free, but it costs everything you have.

Today we have the green one, which is moving forward. Now on the bracelet that I have over there, some of the bracelets have a blue one and a green one. The blue one represents baptism and witnessing, sharing. That's what baptism is. It's a witness to other people of something that's going on inside your heart. And then the green is growing.

We grow in a number of different ways. We're growing through prayer, through Bible study, and fellowship with other believers. All three of those are key components of our church fellowship, but they're important things that we do individually as well. So prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers, those become very important. They help us to grow our faith in ways that will allow us to develop the roots that go down and the fruit that comes out of our lives, as Jesus used the picture of the tree to describe what that looks like.

So that little tool you might carry around. Use it to explain to people more about the gospel. I'll give you some more ideas about how to share the gospel with others. Particularly we're tying that now in to our study in the book of Romans. So if you would take out your Bible and look at Romans 4 today.

In Romans 1-3 we looked at sin and what sin does to us. We're really prompted in the midst of that sin for a Savior. That's what Romans 1, 2, and 3 are doing. They're helping us to see that we have a sin problem and we need a Savior.

Now in chapter 4 we have a little bit of a switch here and we're moving in a different direction to prepare you for that.

I want to ask you a question and I want you to think about this for a moment. Who is someone that really embodies righteousness? When you think of that person you think, "Wow. That person is righteous." I would say that for some of us Billy Graham comes to mind because he's developed quite a reputation of a man of integrity. So we value his righteousness. Or another person, Chuck Smith, who was the founder of Calvary Chapel movement. I have a lot of admiration for him.

There was a man that I learned under in seminary. His name was Loren Fisher. I just loved sitting under Loren Fisher's teaching because he was so real and compassionate. As he taught us about the Bible and he taught us about pastoral studies and things, he had this sense about him. I loved to listen to him pray. I would say I learned some significant things about praying as I listened to Loren Fisher pray in the seminary classroom.

I remember one particular incident that Loren Fisher and I were both leaving the bathroom at the same time and he took a paper towel that he washed his hands with and he wiped out the sink. I had never heard of that before. Everyone says you see that, you know, wipe out the sink, but I had never actually seen anybody do it. Loren Fisher did that and I was just so impressed by his

desire to do what's right or to just be compassionate. I just really liked that. So when I think of people that made an impact on my life or that were righteous, I think about Loren Fisher.

Now Paul is going to do the same thing for the readers in Romans 4. He's going to take two examples of righteous people and he's going to talk about them, given the things he's already talked about up through Romans 1-3.

The two people – if you were a Jewish person and you're thinking about the most revered people in the Jewish faith, you would probably start with Abraham, the founder of the Jewish nation. And the second one you might think of is King David. Those are the two people that Paul looks at to help people understand what the righteousness in Christ is all about.

What we're going to see here in this passage is that the righteousness in Christ isn't about people doing things, good things like Loren Fisher, as much as it is attaching ourselves to Jesus Christ's righteousness and understanding what that is. So what Paul wants us to do is help us understand that the righteousness that we experience is something that comes because of Christ's good works and dying on the cross, not because of ours. That very important truth is what he's trying to bring home to his Jewish readers.

So turn with me to verse 1 of chapter 4. We're going to start with the man Abraham. He says this: *What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh* (in other words, the grandfather of all the Jewish people, forefather according to the flesh), *discovered in this matter?* What did he learn about righteousness? *If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works* (that is he earned merit before God by doing good things), *he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

Let me just pause there. Do you see the words *what does Scripture say?* I really like the way Paul does this because it's a good motivation for all of us to ask the question what does the Bible say about something. We're not so much interested in what does the Bible mean to me, as what does the Bible say. We don't say, “Here's what it means for me.” I don't think we want to know what it means for me until we first find out what does it mean period. Then I can take an application to myself.

Or there's some people who if you start sharing the gospel with them they say, “Oh I don't believe that.” As if that's some authority or something. My belief is more important than truth. There are some people who have their beliefs locked in and so they use that as their authority. They say, “Well I don't believe that,” as if “if I don't believe that, it doesn't exist.” God exists whether they believe it or not. So the truth is what we're doing.

So us in Calvary Chapel, we are truth seekers. That's what we are. We seek truth first and then we believe in it. The Bible is truth and so we hold the scriptures as our authority and we study the truth and we believe in it. That's very important. It's very different than someone who believes in something or doesn't believe in something and so they reject it.

If you're a Christian and someone says, "Well I don't believe that," you can go to the scriptures and say, "Well let me tell you what the scriptures say." But they don't care about what the scriptures say because they don't believe that. You see what they're doing is they elevated belief above truth.

Now it's good for us and this is what we do regularly. We say, "What does the scripture say about something." We want to know what the Bible says because we hold the Bible as our authority, not our belief system. We submit our belief system to God's word and the authority of God's word. That's very important.

So if you're trying to help someone who's saying, "Well I don't believe that," you first want to address the question, "Now are you relying on your belief or are you a truth seeker?" Because the truth seeker's going to say, "I may challenge my beliefs if I can look at God's word and God's word will change what I believe." It's very important to understand we are truth seekers.

And so Paul, I like those words that he says. He says, "*What does Scripture say?*" and then he gives what scripture says. "*Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.*" So the first character or person that we're going to look at is Abraham.

Abraham was a guy who when he was called he was not Jewish. There were no Jews when Abraham was called. Abraham wasn't even from Palestine. Abraham was from Ur of the Chaldees. He was a Chaldean. He lived 3,000 miles away from Palestine over in this city of Ur and God called him and said, "I want you to go where I tell you to go."

He left his home and he went up the Fertile Crescent all the way across down to Palestine where he stopped and God said to him, "I'm going to give you this land. It will be the Promised Land." That's why it's called the Promised Land. "I'm giving you this land and I'm going to give you a family where the kids. The ancestors are going to be as many as the stars of the sky or the sand in the sea." But the guy didn't even have any kids. He didn't have any children. So this is just an amazing thing.

So what provided the righteousness for Abraham? Was it the fact that he was a Jew? No. It was the fact that he believed God. He followed the Lord. He did what God wanted him to do and he went all the way over to this new place. The Bible says God made him righteous because of his faith.

Verse 4: *Now to the one who works* – so there's contrast between working in order to earn your righteousness or having your faith to earn it. *Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation.* So if you work, you get paid. Hopefully. That's the goal. You work, there's an obligation to pay you. But he's saying you can't work for this. *However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.*

Now the word *credited* is used several times in this passage. The idea is that it's put into the journal. If you have a bank account and all of a sudden you go online to check your balance and

you have an extra thousand dollars, you're going, "Whoa! Where did that come from?" That's credited to your account. Who knows where it came from. Maybe it was a mistake.

But in this case, you open up your bank account and there's this huge package of righteousness that's been put into your spiritual bank account that you didn't earn. You weren't expecting it there. There's nothing you could've done to get it there. You're so far in debt and then all of a sudden this righteous package appears in your account. He credits us several times. That's why I said the word *credit* is used several times.

Now I want to explain what the credit is because I don't want you to think that your faith turns into righteousness. That's not what's it's saying here. It's not that we do something and then our faith somehow becomes a righteous act and that's what helps us to get into heaven. That's not the way this happens.

What it is is our faith is our faith in Christ and connects us to Jesus and it's Jesus' righteousness that God sees. It's not our righteousness or anything that we've done, but by faith we connect ourselves to God. When we do we are credited to righteousness of Jesus Christ into our account, so that's what God sees. So instead of looking at us and seeing our sin, He now sees the righteousness of God. That's what's being described here.

Now Abraham was a pagan. So he's going to take two examples here. This first example of Abraham – he was a pagan, he knew nothing. There are some of you who came to Christ and you didn't know anything about God. You didn't grow up in a Christian home. You came to Christ and you were a pagan before that. And now you come to Christ and you go, "Wow. I have this righteousness in Christ. That's something new for me." You're the Abraham kind of a person. *He believed God and credited it to him as righteousness.*

The second guy you see in verse 6 is David. We read verses 6, 7, and 8. *David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works.* It didn't come from works, it comes from righteousness, but in David's situation it comes for a different reason. We're going to see David was a sinner. Oh he was a great king, a hero in the Jewish faith, but the attention is being drawn here to his sin with Bathsheba and killing Uriah. So it says He *credits righteousness apart from works.*

In verse 7 David says these words: "*Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.*"

So the second guy in our story is David that Paul is drawing attention to. We all know David. We love David because David was a man after God's own heart.

In 1 Samuel 16 we have this story about how God told Samuel, "I want you to go and anoint a new king to replace Saul." So Samuel was sent down to the home of Jesse in Bethlehem and he goes to that house and he says to Jesse, "I'm here to anoint a new guy. Get your kids out here. I want to see all the kids." So he gets all the kids out there and Samuel says, "I know who it is. It's that one right there. It's Eliab because he's tall and handsome. It kind of reminds me of the last

king, King Saul.” But God speaks into his heart and says, “Samuel, I’ve got to teach you some theology here. *Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*”

Samuel says, “Hey, you got any more kids around here?”

“We only got the guy in the back and he’s taking care of the sheep.”

“Well go get him and bring him in here.”

When Samuel saw him, God confirmed in Samuel’s heart that this was the one. So he anointed David to be the new king.

Now it was shortly thereafter that David finds himself on a mission by his dad. “Your brothers are all in the battle down there fighting the Philistines and I haven’t heard.” There’s no internet, there’s no telegraph, there’s no nothing to hear any information about what’s going on over there. “So I’m going to send you over there as a message boy to find out what’s happening. Here, take these cheeses and you be the delivery boy for the cheeses. Take them to the commander and find out what’s going on.” So here’s David, Domino’s pizza delivery guy. Here we go.

He’s coming over there and he delivers the cheese to the commander. He wants to find out about the battle. He’s trying to learn about this so he can take a message back to his dad. While he’s doing that, there’s this commotion going on down in the valley. This big ol’ guy is standing up there from the Philistines, yelling and mocking the Israelites, and all the Israelites are running away.

David’s saying, “What’s the deal here? You guys got a problem?” He’s saying, “I can go kill that guy if you want. God rescued me from the hand of the bear and he rescued me from the hand of the lion. I can go kill him if you want.” And they’re all laughing about him here.

Saul finally says, “Okay look. You want to do that? I’ll give you my armor. Put it on.” He puts on the armor and he can hardly move. So he gets rid of the armor and he kills the giant.

And then it says that after he did that the songs of the ladies, you know the hero songs that were sung said *Saul has slain his thousands, and David has slain his ten thousands*. And so whoa. Now Saul’s jealous and tries to kill David.

After a course of time, David then becomes the king. So now he’s the king and he’s quite a warrior. He leads them all into battle and they’re conquering here and there and they take all these different places. David’s doing great at battle, but on one particular battle he decides to stay back. His other commanders are out in battle.

When he’s staying back he looks out his window, sees a woman, and is tempted. He lets his desires get out of control inside of his heart and he commits adultery with her. Well as we know, one of the consequences of committing adultery, a possibility is pregnancy and, sure enough, that’s what happened.

Oh man. We’ve got to get rid of this problem. I know, we’ll bring Uriah back and he’ll be with his wife and then we’ll blame it on that and that’s how she’ll... Well he comes back he doesn’t

want to go into his wife. Because he's just responsible. He wants to go out to battle. So David says, "Okay. Here's what we're going to do. We'll kill him." So David commits murder by killing Uriah. Thinks he's cleared up the slate, now he's covered up his tracks.

It wasn't long till Nathan the prophet comes and says, "David, you're the man. You've killed, you've taken something that doesn't belong to you." At that moment David's heart was just touched. He's a man after God's own heart. He realized that he had sinned. He was repentant and he changed.

So in the passage that we just read in Romans 4, we read two of the verses, but I'm going to go back to where they come from in Romans 4 from Psalm 32. I'm going to read five verses there. This is all what David says. This is his song. He writes this so everybody could see about God's forgiveness.

*Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. That's the conscience just pressing on him because he knew he did the wrong thing. He kept silent trying to hide his sin. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.* Oh man. David had quite an experience with the Lord.

Now Paul is going back into that story and seeing what God had done in David's heart and now he wants to talk about righteousness. So he brings that story back into our passage and he's saying that David understood righteousness in a whole new way. He was forgiven and given the righteousness of God.

Here's a guy who grew up in a godly home, maybe that's you. If you grew up in a pagan home like Abraham, but maybe you grew up in a godly home like David. But he really messed up and God forgave him. Beautiful thing. He was given the righteousness. His debt was erased. That was big.

Two examples from Jewish history to help understand this idea. The idea is that both of them had to come to God by faith. It's the righteousness of God that was given to them because of that faith.

Verse 9. Let's go on. Romans 4 again. Verse 9 says this: *Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised?* Is it only for the Jewish people or also for the Gentiles is what he's saying. *We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? Did he get the promise, did he leave her before or after he was circumcised? It was before!* In other words he received the righteousness of God through faith before he even became a Jew. Circumcision was available.

Verse 11: *And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.*

So the idea is whether you're religious or not you still come to God in the same way. It's by faith and you receive the righteousness of God through faith. And that faith is the essence of what we receive and understand. So he continues in verse 13. See, Abraham got saved as a pagan, David fell and he received the righteousness of God. Both of them received the righteousness of God.

So today, if you've never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you don't want to say, "I need to get cleaned up first before I can come to God." You don't want to say that. That would be a mistake. Because you don't get cleaned up first before you come to God. You come to God and He cleans you up. That's the order in which things happen.

Verse 13. Let's go on. *It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.*

That's going to be the answer for all of us. We have righteousness that comes by faith. It's not the ceremony or tradition. It's not the circumcision, it's not going through the ceremony or rigmarole or whatever. It's the personal decision that we each make to put our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and that's how the righteousness comes into our lives. It's because of Christ's righteousness.

Verse 14: *For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.*

What happens, I think, in our hearts is that there's turmoil inside of us that starts. When we start understanding this idea we start realizing our sin and we see that then the turmoil takes place in our hearts because God wants us to come to Him and trust Him.

So let's look at the solution, verses 16 and following. *Therefore, the promise comes by faith.* It comes *by faith*. It doesn't come by works. There's no other way to get to heaven. You don't come to a church to get to heaven, you come to Christ. It's *by faith*, personal faith. Each one of us must make that faith decision ourselves.

*So that it may be by grace (that's the gift, a free gift, not by works) and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.*

I really like that. He *gives life to the dead*. I just think there's some times in our lives where we experience we feel like things are dead and God is the one who provides the light in our lives.

Let's go on. Verse 18: *Against all hope*. There's some key words here. Hope, faith, grace, peace. All those words are used here. *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations*. Why was there no hope? Because he didn't have any kids. But he believed God was going to give him a multitude of children.

*Became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact (I like those words – he faced the fact) that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."*

Sometimes we have to face the fact that we just don't have the answer. This is an impossible situation. The beginning of a miracle starts with the word impossible. That's what a miracle starts with. God is able and He does have the power to do amazing things. So our job is to trust Him and God does this transformation thing inside of us. God is the one who does the miracles. Human impossibility. That's what he's saying. Face the facts.

That's what he did. Verse 23: *The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead*. See, when you and I make that decision to believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are credited with righteousness in our spiritual bank account. *He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification*.

So how is this practical? What do we do with this information? That's chapter 4. How do we go away, how do we put this into practice in our own lives? I would suggest we want to go to chapter 5:1-2. So look there with me because that's where the word *therefore* is and it's going to take us into the practical application.

It says, *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith* (so that's something that happened over here. Christ saved us. We've been justified. Our faith is what gets us into that), *we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God*.

Here's how I want you to picture this. Do you see the word *access* there? *We stand*. It's like Jesus Christ is the door here and our faith is what says, "I want to walk through the door. I want to accept Jesus as my Savior." Now we're in the foyer of this beautiful place that God has prepared for us with all these mansions and we're standing under this spigot of grace.

How do we get here? Okay. Let's go back here. *Access by faith through Jesus Christ* (that's what it says there) *into grace*. So now we stand in the midst of this grace and we receive this immense grace of God. We stand under this beautiful grace of God. And what does it do for us? It give us, instead of turmoil in our hearts, (notice verse 1) *we have peace with God*.

So now that we have that beautiful relationship of peace inside of our lives, inside of our hearts, I want to take the word *stand* for a moment. There's two words we're going to see as we go through the book of Romans. We're going to see the word *stand* and *walk*.

Stand has to do with our position before God. That when you've accepted Jesus Christ, walk through the door, you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have a standing before God that's righteous. Which means that you are worthy.

So if you're dealing with any self-esteem issues, you need to be standing here. Not over there or here. Okay? You're standing here under the grace of God because you are worthy, you are loved, you are cared for, you are competent. All those things that deal with what the world calls self-esteem we have before God because it's a Christ-esteem that we have in our lives. So we come before God and there's no reason for us to feel inadequate or unworthy or unloved because we offer a position. That's our position. Stand. Okay? Standing is our position.

You got that? I'm going to quiz you in a minute here, so you've got to know this. Standing is our position. You got that part? You with me? Okay good.

The next part is our walk. Now our walk is what we do as we're living the Christian life. So we're trying to do what's right and we're growing in our faith. We're studying, we're praying, we're living life, we're dealing with challenges. All those kind of things. That's living. We call that our walk. So we're walking.

Now here's your question. You know what walk is, right? Walk is living the Christian life. Standing is our position before God. Here's question number one. Can our walk affect our stand? The answer is no, it cannot. Why? Because the things that you do, your salvation isn't based on what you do. Right? So when you mess up and you sin and you make mistakes and fail, you still have the righteousness of God, which is the basis for your salvation.

This is why if you're not saved today you want to get saved today. Because you will have this righteousness. Because you can't rely on yourself because we're all mess-ups. Our walk cannot affect our standing.

Let me ask you another question. Here's quiz question number two. Can our standing affect our walk? Yes. Yes, this is so cool. Because we have the righteousness of Christ and I want to work that out into my living and the things that I'm doing. That's what's so powerful. We're going to see this work out the rest of the book of Romans. It's going to be a lot of fun.

So you've got to start with righteousness here and how do you get that righteousness? You walk through the door. The door is Jesus Christ. This is a beautiful picture illustrated for us of salvation and what it is.

So if you're here today and you've never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, this is your opportunity to do it today. Say, "God, I realize I'm a sinner. I want the righteousness of Christ given to my spiritual bank account and so by faith I'm going to trust you. I'm going to walk through the door and I want to stand in that grace. I need to be there." All of us need to be

there. God designed us to live here and that's why He's made this way for us to be complete and to enjoy that. So this morning, is there anybody here who would like to accept Jesus this morning?

Okay well here's what we're going to do. In a moment we're going to pray. We're going to have prayer counselors on the side. Who are our prayer counselors today? Nancy's a prayer counselor. She's going to be over here. Dan's going to be over here. Good. So prayer counselors will be on the side. If you want prayer, if you want to ask Jesus into your heart, you can go and talk to them and they will help you.

But if you want prayer about anything in your life then you can go talk to those people and ask them to pray for you. Just "would you pray for me?" You don't even have to tell them your story if you don't want. We believe in prayer. We believe that God changes us and changes situations through prayer.

This week I was feeling discouraged about some things that were going on in my life. So I determined this morning I'd get some prayers. I'll be going to a prayer counselor today, just asking this person to pray with me about that. Prayer counselors are here available for us, not just for salvation, but they're here for us for anything in our lives.

The next song we're going to sing is quite a lively song. So let's leave the lights on. It's quite a lively song and probably not the kind of song that you normally have after a sermon that you want people to meditate and think about the message. But the message of the song is the same message of the sermon. So it's a lively song. We can clap to it. But look at the words of the song about how we've been redeemed and how sometimes we feel like we're not redeemed because Satan wants to challenge us and say, "You're not saved. You're not under the righteousness of God." We know that we are because of what Christ has done in our hearts.

So if you want prayer, go to a prayer counselor. You want to worship, then stand up and sing with me. Come on. Let's all stand up. Let me pray for us all and then we will worship the Lord together.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we come before you now and thank you for the privilege of being called your children. Thank you for allowing us to stand in Christ's righteousness. That is such a privilege. Teach us what that means and help us to deal with that in our inner being, especially when we're struggling in areas of our worthiness or feeling worth. Lord, do a miracle inside of our hearts. Give us that ability to trust you in every area of our lives. We ask in Jesus' name, amen.