

Chapter 12

Righteous Acts of Faithful Servants to Earn White Garments

No one can be chosen to enter the gate to life as a leader in the kingdom of heaven as the bride of Yahusha, without a wedding garment, which is defined as righteous acts or good works.

Revelation 14:7,8 “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

Mathew 22:2-14 “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a wedding for his son ... And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But ... a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. ... Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him in outer darkness! ... For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Clearly, the man in this parable represents a born-again believer in heaven, who had not done righteous works. He was cast outside the city where it is much darker, because everyone that lives in the city glows like the sun. (Daniel 12:3). He was a called-out believer, but was not chosen to enter the gates of the city.

The New Testament scriptures include over 150 passages that describe righteous acts of the saints. These scriptures can be grouped in general categories such as: (1) charity, (2) evangelism, (3) spiritual warfare, (4) love, (5) godly character, (6) sacrifice, (7) worship, (8) ministry, and (9) prayer. If a believer is faithful to do these righteous acts as a faithful servant, he will qualify to receive a wedding garment required to be in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 24:45-47 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give food in due season. Blessed is

that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.” (Luke 12:42-44)

Believers are expected to sacrifice their life on earth to do good works as a servant of Yahuah to show love for everyone and bear fruit for the kingdom. This includes helping the poor and supporting the ministry of the word.

James 1:27 “Pure and undefiled religion before Yahuah and Yahusha is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

Romans 12:1-21 “present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to Yahuah, which is your reasonable service. ... Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ... prophesy ... ministering ... teaching ... exhortation ... giving ... leadership ... mercy ... love ... affectionate ... diligent ... fervent in spirit ... rejoicing in hope ... patient in tribulation ... steadfast in prayer ... distributing to the needs of the saints ... hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; associate with the humble ... live peaceably ... do not avenge.”

Titus 3:8,14 “those who have believed in Yahuah should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. ... And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.”

Hebrews 13:1-6 “Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to receive strangers ... remember the prisoners as if chained with them, and those being mistreated ... let marriage be respected by all ... In manner be without covetousness and be satisfied with what you have ... We boldly say, ‘Yahuah is my helper, I shall not fear what man shall do to me.’ “

2 Peter 1:5-11 “add to your faith virtue ... knowledge ... self-control ... perseverance ... godliness ... brotherly kindness ... and love. For if those things are yours and abound, you will neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of Yahusha the Messiah. ... be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for

so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Master and Savior Yahusha the Messiah.”

Salvation for eternal spirit life in heaven is by faith in the name of Yahusha alone, not by works. But clearly, salvation of the carnal soul for life in the kingdom is only by good works. If any scripture is talking about the importance of doing, or failing to do good works, for reward or punishment, it is only referring to salvation of the soul. A believer cannot lose his eternal spirit life in heaven by disobedience or failure to do good works. But faith alone will not save the soul for life in the kingdom.

James 2:14-26 “What does it profit, ... if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food ... but you do not give them the things that are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... I will show you my faith by my works. ... You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone. ... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

James here is talking exclusively about salvation of the carnal soul. Otherwise he would be disagreeing with Paul. But Paul says a believer is given spirit life by the Holy Spirit for a purpose. The purpose is to train the carnal soul to do good works to qualify to be chosen for leadership in the kingdom.

Ephesians 2:8-10 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of Yahuah, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship created in Yahusha the Messiah for good works, which Yahuah prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

The most important calling for believers is to be a leader; teaching disciples to do good works, be obedient and bear fruit for the kingdom. But this must be done with humility and a servant spirit.

Matthew 20:26,27 “whosoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your

slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life a ransom for many.”

1 Peter 5:1-4 “The elders among you I exhort, ... shepherd the flock of Yahuah which is among you, serving as as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly: nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

Charity – Giving to the poor, Strangers and the Ministry

Great rewards are promised to those who give to others in ministering to widows, orphans, strangers and the ministers of the word. Yahusha promised a hundredfold return in this life and eternal life to those who give. Consequently, those who give become wealthy in this world and in the next.

Mark 10:29,30 “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house, or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time ... and in the age to come, eternal life.”

Since Yahusha is talking about good works, He is promising eternal life in the kingdom, or salvation of the carnal soul, not the eternal spiritual life that comes by faith alone.

Matthew 19:21-24 “If you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; assuredly I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven ... for where your treasure is there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 25:34-40 “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. ... In as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”

Luke 3:10-14 “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise. ... Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”

It is clear that Yahuah wants believers to focus in helping others and be content with modest living. Such a lifestyle can bear an abundance of fruit for the kingdom and lay up an abundance of treasure in heaven which lasts for eternity. Believers need a long term vision for their investments that last beyond life on earth.

Luke 6:37,38 “Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put in your bosom.“

Whatever a man sows, he will reap in abundance. He cannot out give Yahuah. A man who gives will eventually become wealthy. A hundredfold return is much better than worldly investments, and treasure is being stored in heaven in addition to the wealth on earth. This is one of the best of righteous acts, with great rewards.

Evangelism – Teaching the Word of the Kingdom

Teaching the word of the kingdom and discipling believers is the highest calling and the most righteous act. It is bearing fruit for the kingdom. This is rarely being done today, because people are only being taught about salvation of their spirit for eternal life by grace through faith in the name of Yahusha. They are not teaching the works required to qualify to be chosen to enter the kingdom as a leader.

Matthew 28:19,20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;”

Acts 20:25-35 “I have gone preaching the kingdom of Yahuah ... For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of Yahuah. Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made overseers, to shepherd the assembly of Yahuah which He purchased with His own blood. ... from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things ... So now brethren, I commend you to Yahuah and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified ... I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of Yahusha, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ “

Titus 1:5-10 “appoint elders in every city as I commanded you – if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For an overseer must be blameless, a steward of Yahuah, not self-willed, not quick tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught.”

The apostle Paul considered this life a race with few winners that receive a crown. He himself was concerned about being disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Only those chosen for leadership over the nations will live in the city of New Jerusalem, the headquarters of the kingdom.

Spiritual Warfare – Casting Out Spirits and Healing the Sick

Miracles, or the physical manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit, is evidence of the word of the kingdom. It causes multitudes to believe the message and it is a powerful tool for evangelism. Yahusha said His miracles

proved that He was the Messiah, the Son of Yahuah. Now this power is available to all believers who are baptized in the Holy Spirit and pray in tongues. It is needed to fight the good fight of faith, to patiently endure trials and persecution, to help people in need, and to bear fruit for the kingdom.

Matthew 10:7,8 “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

John 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.”

Those that teach that works are unnecessary for eternal life, have no motivation to do these works. They are not aware that good works and bearing fruit for the kingdom are required to qualify to enter the kingdom with a wedding garment.

Acts 5:12-16 “And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to Yahuah, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also, a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.”

Very few signs and wonders are performed in public places today to attract multitudes of believers. This is one reason Yahusha said to the believers: “Because you are lukewarm ... I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing.’ – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked – I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in fire that you may be rich; and white garments that you may be clothed ... As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.” Revelation 3:15-19

These believers needed to suffer tribulation to purify their character like gold in the fire and do good works that they may have treasure in heaven, and white garments to enter the kingdom.

Love Everyone – Enemies, Neighbors, and Each Other

The primary character of Yahuah and His laws is love. All His commandments can be summed up as love for Yahuah and love for other people – good and bad. It is impossible to be obedient to the commandments without love for everyone. Therefore it is impossible to be chosen for leadership in the kingdom without love and forgiveness.

Matthew 23:37-40 “You shall love Yahuah your Elohim with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You should love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The first four of the ten commandments are requirements to love Yahuah and the remaining six are requirements needed to love others. (Exodus 20:2-17) If a believer does not obey the laws of Yahuah, he is not loving Yahuah or other people. The kingdom of Yahuah operates on love. All righteous acts are based on love.

Matthew 7:12 “Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the law and the prophets.”

1 Peter 3:8,9 “all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tender hearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.”

1 Peter 4:7-10 “the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another

without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of Yahuah.”

Titus 3:2-10 “the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things – that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their own children, to be discreet, chaste, home makers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of Yahuah may not be blasphemed.”

“Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned ... Exhort bond servants to be obedient to their masters, to be well pleasing in all things ...”

Romans 13:1-13 “And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge. And though I have all faith, so that I could move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ... Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things; believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. ... And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Love is the fruit of the Holy Spirit that takes years to grow into character. Baptism in the power of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues magnifies love. Eventually it becomes an involuntary response to all people. But it takes great character to love those who are offensive or evil. It takes strong character to control anger when confronted with false accusations by an angry person and respond in love. This is a miraculous key to maintaining close relationships, especially in marriage. The love of the Holy Spirit is the key to success of all leaders. So it is needed in the kingdom of heaven. Believers must develop loving character to qualify for leadership in the kingdom.

Godly Character – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience and Self-Control

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are godly character traits necessary to qualify to be chosen to enter the kingdom of heaven; such as love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, humility and a servant spirit. The proud, arrogant, and those who believe they deserve a high position, will not qualify. One must be submissive to those in authority who judge their qualifications. Yahuah has awesome power over the universe with billions of angels. He wants leaders who are loving, patient, humble and obedient, who will not allow power to corrupt them or abuse those under their authority. Chosen believers are His sons who are delegated power and authority over nations.

Matthew 18:3-5 “Assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 20:26 “whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave.”

1 Peter 5:-7 “Likewise you younger people submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for Yahuah resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of Yahuah, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares upon Him.”

Titus 3:12 “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.”

It is clear that godly character with humility and obedience is important qualification for leadership in the kingdom of Yahuah. The failure of Lucifer, as ruler of the earth, was caused by pride and arrogance (Ezekiel 28:12-14; Isaiah 14:12-15). Yahuah is looking for leaders who are faithful servants who are peaceful, merciful and meek. Meekness is defined as self-control over ones emotions. Such a person is strong, patient, quick to listen and slow to speak. It is a key to receiving respect as a successful leader with understanding and love. Those who are refined and tested by the fire of

adversity to produce love, humility and obedience, will qualify to be chosen to enter the kingdom of heaven. (Malachi 3:2,3)

Sacrifice Worldly Life to Seek the Kingdom of Heaven

Those who seek a leadership position in the kingdom of heaven must focus on doing righteous acts as a faithful servant, shepherd disciples to bear fruit for the kingdom, and patiently endure trials and persecution. It is difficult to do that while earning money to support a successful and prosperous lifestyle. The primary causes of failure are: the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the pleasures of this life. The desire for a better lifestyle, house, car, or vacation, requires a lot of time and responsibility. If a believer wants to qualify for life in the city of the paradise of Yahuah's headquarters, and authority over nations, he will have to sacrifice some worldly success to achieve it.

However, Yahusha said that if the believer seeks the kingdom of heaven first, all the worldly things will be given to him. If the believer spends all of his time discipling believers and giving to the poor, he will receive a hundredfold return in this life. Therefore, he will be become wealthy in this world and in heaven. (Matthew 6:33, 19:29)

Luke 14:23 “Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

Ecclesiastes 2:16-18 “For there is no more remembrance of the wise ... since all that now is will be forgotten ... Therefore I hated life ... for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13,14 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear Yahuah and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For Yahuah will bring every work into judgment including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

This is a very profound statement, because it was made by Solomon, the wealthiest and most powerful king in the world. All his great

accomplishments were just vanity, soon to pass away. The only eternal value in this life is obedience to Yahuah for life in the kingdom.