How to Accept Your "Robe of Righteousness"

Word of Truth · By Pst Dr Nellie Shani | Founder, CEO · February 20, 2026

> *I spent years trying to be a "good girl" for God. Here is why I stopped—and how understanding God's mercy changed my Christian walk forever.*

IT is a difficult concept to wrap our minds around: **We are not holy because of the righteous things we do.**

For many of us, this contradicts everything we were taught as children. I grew up believing I was a "bad girl" when I did bad things and a "good girl" when I did good things. My acceptance was pegged entirely on my behavior. I spent my childhood performing for the people who mattered most, trying to earn a seat at the table of their approval.

The result? A life of constant frustration. No human has the capacity to live perfectly all the time. We are bound to fail, and when I carried this "performance mindset" into my Christian walk, I imagined God looking down in frustration, wondering why I couldn't just "get it right."

The Divine Exchange

The breakthrough comes when we realize that God doesn't see us through the lens of our mistakes. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, a **divine exchange** took place.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." — **2 Corinthians 5:21**

It feels almost "scary" to imagine ourselves as righteous in God’s sight. We know our flaws too well. Yet, Romans 5:7-9 reminds us that God demonstrated His love while we were still sinners. He didn't wait for us to clean ourselves up; He stepped in while we were lost.

Can We Be Sinners and Righteous at the Same Time?

I recently asked a group of believers, *"Who among you is holy?"* There was hesitation. One woman refused to raise her hand, saying, *"Because I am sinful."* When I asked, *"Who among us is NOT sinful?"*—not a single hand went up.

This creates a holy paradox. The Bible is clear in **1 John 1:8-10**: if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves. So, how can we be dealing with sin and be righteous simultaneously?

Righteousness is a Position, Not an Act

We must understand that for the believer, **righteousness is a position.** It is the "robe" that Jesus clothes us with the moment we accept Him as Lord.

• **The Robe:** Our standing before God. It is a gift of grace ($Titus 3:5$).

• **The Soil:** Sin is what makes our robes dirty.

• **The Cleansing:** We don't get a "new" robe every time we stumble; instead, we wash our robes through confession and repentance.

As **Revelation 22:14** says, *"Blessed are those who wash their robes."* Our righteousness was bought at a high price. It is a costly garment, and while we cannot "earn" it, we are called to protect it.

A Call to Grace

If you are tired of the "performance treadmill," remember that the Lord invites you to settle the matter today. No matter how deep the stain, His grace is deeper.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." — **Isaiah 1:18**

Prayer Points for Today

• **Repent of Self-Reliance:** Ask the Lord to forgive you for trying to earn His acceptance through your own deeds. Acknowledge that you are accepted because of Jesus.

• **Seek Empowerment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk in a way that keeps your robe clean and honors the sacrifice of Christ.

• **Give Thanks:** Spend a moment thanking God for the mercy and grace that brought you salvation when you couldn't save yourself.