

ROMANS
2026
May 10, 2026

IV. Justified by Grace through Faith
Part 2: "The Faith of Abraham" 4:1-25

Rom 3:21-5:21

1. What then shall we say that Abraham our forefather according to the flesh, discovered (or "found") in this matter? (That justification by grace through faith saves) **Rom 4:1-3**

- a. **If, in fact ("because/for") , Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about - but not before God.** *He could try, and perhaps be seen by people as just. But before God who knows our minds, that cannot fly. (See Rom 3:23; Php 3:4-6)*
- b. **What does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.** *(That is, "it was counted/ imputed to him as righteousness" - see Psm 32:2; Php 3:9)*

Why was Abraham reckoned righteous?
He took God at His word and acted accordingly.
Heb 11:8-12; 17-19; Gal 3:7-9

2. Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation ("debt"). *If salvation is transactional based on our actions, it is our attainment. God is obligated based on our compliance with His commands. But this is impossible. (3:20)*
If you could earn salvation, in whom would you be placing your faith? **Rom 4:4-12**

- a. **However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.** (Act 16:31- "believe, place your trust in/on...)
- b. **David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:**
- "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
 - Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD will never count against them." (Psm 32:1-2)
 - Is this blessedness, only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? (I.e., is the blessing of salvation only for the Jews or also for those outside of God's covenant with them?) 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?
It was not after, but before!
 - * And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. By faith he was reckoned righteous (Gen 15, circumcision wasn't until Gen 17)
 - So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. (Gen 12:3b; Gal 3:8-9; Jhn 10:16)
 - And he is 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.

In whose righteousness do you stand? Php 3:7-11

3. 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 [of] faith. **Rom 4:13-17**

a. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless (*"made of no effect"*), because the law brings wrath. (Heb 10:26-31)

b. And where there is no law there is no transgression. *The Jews had God's law, given through Moses. The Gentiles had God's law revealed in nature. Both are culpable. Paul's point here is that the promise of salvation does not depend on the law.*

c. Therefore the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed (or "*certain, sure*") to all Abraham's offspring ("*seed*").

- 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." (Isa 49:6/Act 13:47; Gal 3:7-9, 29)

* He is our father in the sight of God in whom ("*before whom*") he believed - the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that are not. (e.g., Abraham and Sarah to be parents of many nations (Gen 1:3; Isaiah 51:2))

It all depends on faith in God's word that the promise is ours

4. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to Him, "So shall your offspring be." **Rom 4:18-25**
That is, despite any human expectation, Abraham trusted God and expected His promise to be fulfilled.

a. Without weakening in His faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead

- Since he was about 100 years old (See also Gen 17:17; Heb 11:12)
- And that Sarah's womb was also dead. (Gen 11:30 - *it had been her reality all of her life*)

b. Yet he did not waiver (or, "*doubt, hesitate, stagger*") through unbelief regarding the promise of God.

- But was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had the power to do what He had promised. E.g., see *Gen 18:14* and *Luke 1:38*
- That is why "It was credited to him as righteousness." *How about us?* Gal 3:6-8
- The words "It was credited to him" were written not just 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. (Rom 10:9-10)

* He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Heb 11:6