
Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/walk-in-faith-in-romans
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Romans 4:1-25 (ESV)

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;

⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

⁹ Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.¹⁰ How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised.¹¹ He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well,¹² and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be."¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone,²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Sermon Outline

- I. Abraham's Justification (1-12)
- II. Abraham's Faith (13-25)



Life Group Leader Notes:

Group Discussion Questions

- What was Paul's famous statement? (Hint: Romans 1:16) What impact should this have on your daily spiritual walk?
- Michael mentioned that Paul started off his proclamation of the gospel by pointing to the lostness of man, saying that "people today just don't think they are lost anymore." Why do you think Paul found it necessary to start his gospel presentation with this bleak reality check? Do you see this statement as true in our world today?
- Discuss the impact of Paul's re-evaluation of Abraham's justification (faith credited to his account **before** a covenant was made, before he was circumcised, etc..). How would the 1st century Jew have understood it? What new light did Paul shed on Abraham's righteousness? What does that mean for us today?
- List out the characteristics of Abraham's faith in verses 13-25 (persistent trust in God's promise, belief in hope, did not weaken in faith, no unbelief even in old age, fully convinced). What circumstances do your members find themselves in today that could use this level of faith? How can we come alongside one another to help strengthen our faith?
- In what way can we consider our own problems in a healthy way (as Abraham and the Psalmists did), yet not be overcome by them? What can we do on a weekly basis to keep God's truths in front of us: that the backend of a works-based life is miserable, that God gives grace to the ungodly, and the promise of credited righteousness is ours today?

