

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 4

Lesson 5

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. From the lecture or lesson last week share a reason you are thankful for God's grace.
2. Faith is essential for salvation! Without faith in Jesus Christ, people remain under condemnation. Only by faith does God justify (declare as righteous or qualify) men for salvation. In Romans 4 Paul emphasized the essentiality of faith. He began by showing that faith is not a new concept; faith has always been the basis by which God justifies men. Using Abraham, the patriarch of the Jews, Paul proved that before the law and before Abraham was circumcised, he was already accounted righteous by believing in God and His Word (Genesis 15:6).

Continuing his emphasis on faith, Paul elaborated on the superiority of faith:

- Faith came before the law and circumcision
- Faith does what the law cannot (The law cannot justify men but can only identify their sin.)
- Faith assures believers of salvation because it is based on what God has done and not what man has merited
- Faith glorifies God by highlighting God's work and not man's work
- Faith showcases God's grace to men
- Faith is available to anyone and everyone (Jew and Gentile alike) who will believe
- Faith brings us directly into a relationship with God

This is the faith that Abraham exercised and the same faith that God requires for salvation. Read the passages below and give a title to each one:

- a. Romans 4:1-8
 - b. Romans 4:9-15
 - c. Romans 4:16-22
 - d. Romans 4:23-25
3. Ask God to strengthen your faith!

*He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief,
but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.*

Romans 4:20

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 4:1–8

1. In Romans 4 Paul wanted his audience to know that *faith* is not a new concept. Rewrite the question Paul posed to emphasize this point. Romans 4:1
 - a. Link this with John 8:39. What do you see?
2. Paul noted of Abraham in Romans 4:2 (NLT), *If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way.* Why do you think this was not *God's way* of justification? See also 1 Corinthians 1:29–31.
3. According to Genesis 15:6 and Romans 4:3, how was Abraham *justified*?
 - a. *Justified* means to *place upon one's account*. Paul used this term (translated also as *imputed*) eleven times in this chapter. What did God *place upon* Abraham's account?
4. From Romans 4:4–5a contrast *works* with *grace* and note your findings.
 - a. What is the result of *faith*? Romans 4:5b
5. Paul then pointed out that David also addressed *righteousness apart from works*. What did David describe? Romans 4:6
6. In Romans 4:7–8 Paul quoted Psalm 32:1–2 to describe what justification looks like. Read these verses from the NLT, *Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin.* What blesses you most about God's justification?
7. Paul's goal was to demonstrate the means that God has always used for justification. From your study today, note how Paul accomplished this using the example of:
 - a. Abraham
 - b. David

THIRD DAY: Read Romans 4:9–15

1. In Romans 4:9a Paul reiterated that the *blessedness* of justification was available to all people, *circumcised* and *uncircumcised* alike. To support this, he referred again to Abraham. What did Paul establish concerning Abraham? Romans 4:9b
2. According to Romans 4:10, what condition was Abraham in when he was *accounted* righteous?
 - a. Why was this important to emphasize? See Galatians 5:2–4.
3. Read Romans 4:11–12 (NLT) and respond to the directions that follow: *Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous – even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith. And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised.*
 - a. Identify and comment on the true purpose of *circumcision*.
 - b. Note and comment on Abraham’s role as a *spiritual father*.
4. What did Paul make clear about the *promise* God made to Abraham? Romans 4:13
 - a. What would happen if people could be made *heirs* of God’s *promise* by the *law*? Romans 4:14
 - (1) What does this indicate to you concerning the essentiality of *faith*?
5. Romans 4:15 (NLT) says, *For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)* Why is the *law* unable to *justify* us before God? See Galatians 3:10.
6. Why are you thankful God chose to *justify* you by *faith*?

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 4:16–22

1. According to Romans 4:16a, the *promise* of salvation and justification is a free gift of grace through faith in God. How does this make the *promise* certain?
 - a. According to Romans 4:16b, who can claim this *promise*?
2. What did Abraham believe about God? Romans 4:17
3. From Romans 4:18–21 share how you see the steps of Abraham's faith:
 - a. Verse 18
 - b. Verse 19
 - c. Verse 20
 - d. Verse 21
4. What resulted from Abraham's faith? Romans 4:22
5. What aspect(s) of Abraham's faith do you need to apply to your life?

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 4:23–25

1. In Romans 4:23–24a what did Paul make clear about the testimony of Abraham?
 - a. Link this with the following verses and share your thoughts:
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 10:11
 - (2) Galatians 3:6–9
2. According to Romans 4:24b, to whom will God's righteousness be *imputed*?
 - a. Link this with Abraham's faith in *God who gives life to the dead* (Romans 4:17). What do you see?
3. According to Romans 4:25a, why was Jesus *delivered up* to death?
 - a. The Greek word for *delivered* is *paradidomi* and was used of casting people into prison. Wuest says, *Here it speaks of the judicial act of God the Father delivering God the Son to the justice that required the payment of the penalty for human sin.* How does this speak to you?
4. Why was Jesus *raised* from the dead? Romans 4:25b
 - a. Use the following verses to comment on the importance of Jesus' resurrection:
 - (1) Romans 8:11
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 15:13–19
 - (3) 1 Peter 1:3–4, 21
5. What does someone need to believe to receive the *imputed* righteousness of Jesus Christ?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Use Romans 4:18-21 to fill in the blanks highlighting Abraham's demonstration of faith in God:
 - a. Verse 18a: *Contrary to _____, in _____ believed,*
 - b. Verse 19a: *And not being _____, he did not _____
his own body, already dead*
 - c. Verse 20: *He did not _____ at the promise of God through _____,
but was _____, giving glory to God.*
 - d. Verse 21: *And being _____ that what He had promised He was
also able to perform.*
 - (1) How does the faith of Abraham:
 - (a) Encourage you
 - (b) Challenge you
2. From your lesson this week share an observation you made concerning faith.

And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.
Romans 4:21