

WALKING THROUGH ROMANS - PART 7

ROMANS CHAPTER 4 - THE PRINCIPLE OF FAITH

This is Lesson Seven, walking through Romans, and we are continuing this study weekly as we move through the text. The focus of this lesson is righteousness credited through faith and the principle of faith itself.

The driving question remains: Has God remained faithful in a fractured world? That question continues to frame everything Paul is arguing and everything we are unpacking.

In previous lessons, Paul showed how God makes people right. Righteousness is not achieved through works but comes through faith in Jesus Christ. Now Paul does not just state it. He proves it by going back into Israel's history and bringing forward Abraham as the father of the faith.

DEFINING FAITH

Faith comes from the Greek word *pistis*, which is not casual belief but full trust and reliance upon God.

Faith is not just believing something is true. Faith is choosing to rely on who God is and what God has said, even when what we see does not match it.

Faith is what carries us in the space between what we heard and what we see. It is the mechanism that allows us to trust God beyond our current reality.

BUCKET 1 - ROMANS 4:1-8

Paul begins with Abraham and asks how he was made right. He makes it clear that Abraham was not justified by works.

If Abraham had been justified by works, he would have something to boast about, but not before God.

Instead, Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.

That word *reckoned* means credited or counted toward his account.

Righteousness was not earned. It was credited because of his faith, his *pistis*, his trust and reliance on God.

Paul then brings in David to support the same argument. David also speaks about the blessing of being forgiven apart from works.

Both Abraham and David point to the same conclusion: people are made right by trusting God, not by what they do.

Faith is not about building a record of works. Faith is about trusting who God is and what God has said.

BUCKET 2 - ROMANS 4:9-12

Paul now addresses when righteousness was credited to Abraham.

He shows that it happened before Abraham was circumcised, not after.

Circumcision was an external marker of identity, not the source of righteousness.

That means faith precedes any external sign or religious identity marker.

Circumcision served as a sign, but it was not the cause of Abraham's relationship with God.

Because of this, Abraham becomes the father of all who believe, both circumcised and uncircumcised.

This shows that righteousness is not tied to external identity but to internal trust in God.

What is inside of us, our faith, defines our relationship with God, not what we display outwardly.

BUCKET 3 - ROMANS 4:13-17

Paul now shifts from circumcision to promise.

He explains that the promise to Abraham did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

If the promise depended on the law, it would limit who could receive it.

But because it depends on faith, it is opened to all.

Faith allows the promise to rest on grace, which means it is given, not earned.

God is described as the one who gives life to the dead and calls into existence things that do not exist.

This highlights the power of God and reinforces that faith is required to trust in what God can do beyond what we can see.

Faith opens us up to the full scope of God's promise because it trusts in God's ability rather than human limitation.

BUCKET 4 - ROMANS 4:18-25

Paul now shows what Abraham's faith looked like in real life.

Against all hope, Abraham believed that he would become the father of many nations.

Even though his body was old and Sarah's womb was barren, he did not weaken in faith.

He did not waver concerning the promise of God but grew stronger in faith.

He was fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised.

Because of this, his faith was credited to him as righteousness.

Paul then makes the application: this was not written for Abraham alone, but for us as well.

Righteousness will also be credited to those who believe in God, who raised Jesus from the dead.

Faith is not ignoring reality. It is trusting God beyond what reality looks like.

Faith is choosing to believe that God can do what God said, even when the situation suggests otherwise.

FINAL TAKEAWAY

Righteousness is credited through faith, not earned through works.

Faith is full trust and reliance upon God, even when circumstances do not align.

The promise of God is accessed through faith and rests on grace.

Faith calls us to trust God beyond what we see and rely fully on what God has said.