

ROMANS

THE GRACE OF GOD: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Abraham Justified by Faith

• Romans 4 : 1 - 25 •

Week 7

DEVOTION

As Paul moves from stating the truth about salvation through faith he reaches back to the Old Testament to not just say it, but show us. Abraham, who God created Israel through, was credited with righteousness not through his own merit but by his faith.

Romans 4 is a profound reflection on the nature of faith and how it plays a central role in our relationship with God. Paul uses Abraham as the key example of what it means to be justified by faith, not by works. This chapter speaks to the heart of the gospel: that righteousness is not something we can earn through our deeds, but a gift given to us by God when we believe in Him.

Abraham was a man who believed God, and it was "credited to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:3). He wasn't justified because of anything he did. He wasn't perfect. In fact, his life was filled with moments of doubt and failure, yet he is remembered for his faith. Abraham's righteousness came through trusting in God's promise, not in his own ability to fulfill the law. This is a powerful reminder for us: our right standing before God doesn't depend on our own merit or efforts, but on His grace.

Paul goes on to emphasize that this gift of righteousness is not limited to those who follow the Jewish law but extends to everyone who believes, Jew and Gentile alike. The same faith that made Abraham righteous can make us righteous today. It's not through religious rituals or moral perfection that we are made right with God, but through faith in Him and His promises.

Romans 4:18 says that Abraham, "against all hope, in hope believed." Even when it seemed impossible, Abraham trusted God's promise that he would become the father of many nations, even though he and Sarah were too old to have children. His faith wasn't based on what he saw or what was humanly possible—it was grounded in God's ability to do the impossible. This challenges us to trust God, even when circumstances seem hopeless or beyond our control.

Finally, Paul concludes that the story of Abraham's faith is not just a historical lesson but has direct application to us. We, too, are justified by faith—faith in the God who raised Jesus from the dead, who was "delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification" (Romans 4:25). Our faith in Christ brings us into a right relationship with God, granting us the same gift of righteousness that Abraham received. May this truth encourage us to place our full trust in God, knowing that it is faith, not works, that justifies us before Him.

Monday

Read Romans 4:1-25

Paul says that we are justified by faith and not by works, he uses an Old Testament figure to show that this was true even before Jesus came to the earth, that this is always how God has worked.

1. Why is it important for Paul to show that Abraham was justified by faith?
2. What made it hard for Abraham to trust God?
3. What makes it hard for us to trust God?

Tuesday

Read Galatians 3:6-14

Justification by Faith in Jesus: Paul refers to Abraham's faith to demonstrate that believers are justified through faith in Jesus, not by observing the law. He emphasizes that we receive the promise of the Spirit by faith.

1. Why does Paul use Abraham's faith as an example for the Galatians? What does it teach us about justification by faith?
2. How does this passage describe the difference between living under the law and living by faith?
3. Take a minute to pray and ask the Lord if there are any areas in your life where you are relying on your own effort to live this new life you have in Christ. If so take some time to ask the Lord to show you how to rely on the Power of the Holy Spirit instead of your own effort.

Wednesday

Read: Habakkuk 2:2-4

The Righteous shall live by Faith: In this Old Testament passage, God tells Habakkuk that He will use Babylon as His instrument of Justice on Judah. Habakkuk questions how God can do that, as Babylon is worse than Judah. But God assures Habakkuk that the righteous will live by faith because, eventually, God will bring judgement on Babylon as well. This is a foundational concept later used by Paul to explain the principle of justification by faith.

1. What does God's instruction to "wait for it" teach us about trusting His promises, even when the fulfillment seems delayed?
2. How does the statement "the righteous shall live by faith" shape our understanding of faith's role in everyday life?
3. In difficult times, am I living by faith, trusting in God's plan, or am I controlled by fear and doubt? What are some things I can do to focus on God and his faithfulness instead of being controlled by fear and doubt?

Thursday

Read: Ephesians 2:4-10

Saved by Grace Through Faith: Paul explains that salvation is a gift of grace received through faith, not a result of works, so that no one can boast. He emphasizes that we are God's workmanship, created to do good works as a result of faith.

1. What does it mean that salvation is "not by works, so that no one can boast"? How does this truth affect how we live our Christian life?
2. What is the relationship between grace, faith, and good works, as described in this passage?
3. Do I sometimes struggle with trying to "earn" God's love or approval? How can I rest in the truth that I am saved by grace through faith?

Friday

Read: Hebrews 11:1-12

Faith that Pleases God: The writer of Hebrews describes faith as being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. The passage focuses on the faith of Old Testament figures like Abraham and Sarah, showing that faith pleases God.

1. How does Hebrews 11 define faith, and how do the examples of Abraham and Sarah demonstrate the kind of faith that pleases God?
2. What challenges did Abraham and Sarah face in believing God's promises, and how did their faith ultimately lead to fulfillment?
3. In what areas of my life do I struggle to trust God where I can't see the outcome? Ask the Lord to give you faith in that area of your life!