

Romans 4:1-25 **Abraham's Righteousness – As Ours – Imputed by Faith**

Example of Abraham

¹ What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found 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 accounted to him for righteousness." ⁴ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

⁵ But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

⁶ just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

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

⁸ Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin."

Faith and Circumcision – Sons of Abraham by Faith

⁹ Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. ¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, ¹² and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

Works of the Law / Faith

¹³ For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, ¹⁵ because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all ¹⁷ (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed--God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; ¹⁸ who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."

Abraham's steadfast Faith

¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Our Righteousness Imputed by Faith

²³ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Example of Abraham – Discernment of David [Romans 4:1-8]

- ✚ Abraham **believed** the promise of God and God counted it as righteousness. [Genesis 15:5-6]
 - ✧ Abraham was old and Sarah old and barren, God promised descendants as numerous as the stars of the heavens.
 - ✧ Abraham did not consider his old age or the fact that Sarah was old and barren, he believed what God said. Faith believes God when things seem most improbable.
 - ✧ Faith believes that whatever God says God is able to do.
 - ✧ Righteousness is based on faith, not dependant on our works.
 - ✧ Good Works are the result of our righteous faith, not the basis of righteousness. [James 2:17-26]
 - ✧ Righteousness can not be earned, it is imputed (credited) by God.

- ✧ David expressed the same discernment as he describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works, saying:
 - "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom Yahweh (the LORD) does not impute iniquity." [Psalm 32:1-2]

- ✧ Obviously sin is there, but God counts faith as righteousness and overlooks the sin by providing a covering for it in the blood of Jesus Christ for all who believe. [Romans 3:21-26, Galatians 3:22]
- ✧ Thus God does not impute the sin, but righteousness for believing faith.

Faith and Circumcision – Sons of Abraham by Faith [Romans 4:9-12]

- ✚ Abraham was uncircumcised when God accounted his faith for righteousness. [Genesis 15:5-6]
 - ✧ Abraham received his name change and covenant of circumcision when he was 99 years old. [Genesis 17:1-14]
 - ✧ Circumcision was the seal in his flesh of the righteousness he had been granted by faith.
 - ✧ The reason for the timing was that Abraham might be the father of all who believe, both Jew (circumcision) and Gentile (uncircumcision) so righteousness might be imputed to all who believe.
 - ✧ Imputed righteousness therefore is available for everyone who walks in the steps of faith following the example of Abraham.

Works of the Law / Faith [Romans 4:13-18]

- ✚ God promised to make Abraham the father of many nations while Abraham was still uncircumcised. [Genesis 17:4-5]
 - ✧ Abraham was circumcised after he received the promise. [Genesis 17:23-27]
 - ✧ The promises and believing faith were there before the law of circumcision was issued.
 - ✧ The Law brings Wrath because it reveals what is sin and its penalty, where there is no law there is no knowledge of sin.
 - ✧ Therefore, the promise did not come through the Law, but through believing faith, so it might be according to the grace of God. [Acts 15:11, Romans 4:16, 5:12-21, 11:5-6, Ephesians 1:7-10, 2:4-9]

- ✧ Through faith the promise is made sure to all who are of the faith of Abraham who is by example the father of all believers making him the father of many nations, according to the spoken Word of God.
- ✧ God gives life to the dead, and calls the things that do not exist as though they did.
- ✧ God speaks as finished the things of the future before they begin, even regarding things pertaining to the time of the end.

Abraham's steadfast Faith [\[Romans 4:19-22\]](#)

- ✧ Abraham at his old age, and Sarah being barren, did not cause Abraham to waver, but being strong in faith, Abraham was fully convinced that what God had promised, God was able to perform.
- ✧ It was this steadfast faith that God accounted to Abraham as righteousness.

Our Righteousness Imputed by Faith

- ✧ The case of Abraham's steadfast faith accounted by God as righteousness, was recorded in Scripture for our sake who should follow in the faith of Abraham.
- ✧ By this example of Scripture, we are assured that God will impute righteousness to us who believe in God Who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.
- ✧ Jesus was crucified for our offenses, and was raised from the dead for our justification.
- ✧ The blood of Jesus has redeemed us from the penalty of our sins. [\[Ephesians 1:3-12, Colossians 1:13-14, Hebrews 9:11-12, Revelation 1:5, 5:9, 7:14, 12:11\]](#)