



October 3, 2021

Faith on Display

Romans 4

Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? **2** 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. **3** For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." **4** When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. **5** But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners. **6** David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it: **Romans 4:1-6**

1. Abraham's faith displayed

a. Isaiah 40:12

Genesis 15:3

Counted: Greek word "logizomai": to **credit** an account

Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith. **10** But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised! **11** 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. **Romans 4:9-11**

2. Abraham's faith described

So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. **17** That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing. **Romans 4:16-17**

Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10

Lifeway Survey:

- 77% say there is something we must **do** to contribute to our salvation
- 52% say that good deeds **earn** us a spot in heaven

Grace: God's **riches** at Christ's **expense**

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3. Abraham's faith inspected in **detail**

a. Abraham **believed** that God could do **anything**

Genesis 18:14, Jeremiah 32:18

O sovereign Lord, creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them-
Acts 4:24

b. Abraham believed that **circumstances** aren't **everything** v 19

Abram means: **exalted father**

c. Abraham's **challenges** didn't **detour** his faith v 20

"We have a God who delights in impossibilities." **Billy Sunday**

Romans 10:17

d. Abraham believed that **promises** mean **something**

He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. **22** And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. **Romans 4:21-22**

If God **said** it, I **believe** it, that **settles** it

2 Peter 1:4

"Lord I crawled across the barrenness to you with my empty cup uncertain in asking any small drop of refreshment. If only I had known you better I'd have come running with a bucket." **Nancy Spiegelberg**

Romans 8:32

Circumstances do not **make** or **break** us but they just expose the **absence** or **presence** of our faith.

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