



# BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

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**Focus:** Rooted – A Study Through Romans

**Week 6:** “Abraham’s Faith...Faith That Counts”

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**Introduction:** Romans has shown humanity’s need for salvation and God’s provision through justification by faith. Romans 3 teaches that righteousness cannot be earned through works but is received through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Romans 4** answers an important spiritual question: **Has salvation by faith always been God’s design?**

## Key Scriptures

Romans 4:1–6, 9–11 – Faith Exhibited

Romans 4:16–17 – Faith Explained

Romans 4:18–22 – Faith Examined

**1. Faith Exhibited – Romans 4:1–6, 9–11:** Paul teaches that Abraham was declared righteous because he believed God, not because he performed works. Genesis 15:5–6 shows God promising Abraham descendants. Abraham responded by trusting God.

The Hebrew word for believed is **’āman** — meaning to trust or rely upon.

The Greek word **logizomai** means righteousness was credited to Abraham’s account.

Circumcision later became the sign and seal of a promise already established through faith. This order shows that righteousness comes through faith first, and covenant signs follow as outward expressions of inward trust.

## Truths to See

- Righteousness is credited through faith, not earned through performance.
- Faith creates identity before religious practice expresses it.
- Salvation is God’s gift, not human achievement.

## Biblical Cross References

Genesis 15:5–6

Ephesians 2:8–9

Genesis 17:1–14

Titus 3:5

**2. Faith Explained – Romans 4:16–17:** Faith ensures God’s promises remain secure because salvation rests on grace rather than human effort. If God’s promises depended on performance, they would collapse under human weakness. Because salvation rests on grace, the promise remains secure and accessible to all who believe.

Abraham becomes the spiritual father of all believers. Faith expands God’s covenant family beyond heritage and ritual. **Romans 4:17** describes God as the One who gives life to the dead and calls into existence things that do not exist. Faith requires believers to change perspective from human limitation to divine ability.

## Truths to See

- Faith keeps salvation grounded in grace.
- God’s promises depend on His faithfulness.
- Faith unites believers across cultures and backgrounds.

### **Biblical Cross References**

Genesis 17:4–5

Ephesians 2:8–9

Galatians 3:26–29

Romans 10:9–10

**3. Faith Examined – Romans 4:18–22:** After showing how faith begins and why faith matters, Paul now reveals how faith survives real-life challenges. Abraham’s story demonstrates that biblical faith is not fragile. True faith grows stronger through waiting, struggle, and uncertainty. These verses show that faith is both the doorway into salvation and the pathway through spiritual growth.

### **Four Characteristics of Abraham’s Faith**

**1. He Believed God Could Do Anything (Romans 4:17–18):** Abraham trusted God’s power even when circumstances seemed impossible. “Is anything too hard for the LORD?” (Genesis 18:14)

### **Biblical Cross References**

Genesis 18:9–15

Luke 1:37

Jeremiah 32:17

Ephesians 3:20

**2. He Believed Circumstances Aren’t Everything (Romans 4:19):** Abraham faced the reality of his age and Sarah’s inability to conceive. Yet he refused to allow circumstances to define his faith. Circumstances describe situations but do not determine God’s ability.

### **Biblical Cross References**

2 Corinthians 4:16–18

Psalm 27:13–14

Hebrews 11:1

Isaiah 40:29–31

**3. He Believed Challenges Are Nothing (Romans 4:20):** Abraham did not waver through unbelief. Genesis shows Abraham struggled, including the decision involving Hagar and Ishmael. Yet God reaffirmed His promise when Abraham was ninety-nine years old and established circumcision as a covenant sign.

*Struggling is not the same as abandoning faith. Temptation is not the same as sin.* Faith grows when believers continue trusting God through challenges.

### **Biblical Cross References**

Genesis 16:1–4

Hebrews 4:15

Genesis 17:15–21

1 Corinthians 10:13

**4. He Believed Promises Mean Something (Romans 4:21–22):** Abraham was fully convinced that God had the power to accomplish what He promised. His faith rested in the reliability of God’s Word rather than immediate fulfillment.

### **Biblical Cross References**

Numbers 23:19

2 Peter 1:3–4

Joshua 21:45

Isaiah 55:10–11

### **Truths to See**

- Biblical faith trusts God’s character and promises.
- Faith grows stronger when believers focus on God’s power rather than personal limitation.
- Spiritual endurance develops through trusting God during uncertainty.
- Faith glorifies God by trusting Him before promises are fulfilled.