

I) V16 INTRO: Therefore *it is of faith* that it might be according to grace, so that

Paul wrote that *righteousness* is the product of faith in God through Jesus

II) In V3 He used Abraham *as an example* of someone made righteous by *faith*

V3 Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness

*Believed:* Trusted; to have full confidence in; to be committed to

III) The righteousness given to Abraham was the result of grace and faith

This is so that salvation might be *according to grace* (undeserved favor)

He made it clear: *Salvation* is received based on God's grace It is not on the basis on human effort or simply a strong belief

IV) Our salvation rests on and is dependent on God's grace

We have been graciously provided the ability to trust in the Lord for salvation

By grace God grants us salvation, and even the faith that we place in Him

Eph 2:8 For it is *by grace* you have been saved, through *faith--* and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God

V) V16 So that the promise might be sure to all the seed not only to those who

God has always saved people based on His grace, through faith

VI) Abraham was recognized *as righteous* before the giving of the law (V9-10)

This was *before* humanity was divided as *Jew* and *Gentile* This reveals that Paul is speaking *spiritually* and not *physically*

VII) With this in mind Paul says the promise is sure to all the seed *not*

*just Jews*

This promise is fulfilled in those who are of the faith of

Abraham

This makes him the father of all who are of faith in Jesus our

Messiah

By faith, we enter into eternal life, Jew and Gentile alike

VIII) This is God's way of breaking our racial and spiritual divisions

Gal 3:26-29 *For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

I) V17 As it is written I have made you a father of *many nations* in the presence

God made this promise to Abraham as Abraham was in His presence

Gen 17:5 Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of *many nations*.

II) In saying he would be the father of *many nations*, God included Gentiles

Even as Abraham had faith and was saved, they too would be saved *by faith*

Gal 3:8 Scripture foresaw that God would justify *the Gentiles by faith* and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

III) God's plan of salvation would include all people, not just Israel

Hosea 2:23b I will say to those called *Not My People, You are My people*, and they will say *You are my God*

1 Pe 2:10 Once *you were not a people*, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy

IV) V17 Paul begins to reveal attributes of the God that Abraham worshipped

*First: He gives life to the dead, both spiritually and even physically*

This was shown when Abraham and Sarah were gifted with, Isaac (V19)

V) When God called Abraham, He made a promise to him (Gen 12:2)  
He would make him a great nation

Later God said that he would have a son, through Sarah (Gen 17:15)

It is estimated that Abraham was 75 when he first was given the promise

VI) Abraham waited for 25 years for the promise to be kept

The problem was he and Sarah had grown old waiting for its fulfillment

According to Gen 17:17 and Gen 21:5, Sarah was around 91, Abraham 100

VII) In spite of their advanced age, God kept His promise

Heb 11:11-12 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore, from one man, and him *as good as dead*, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

I) *Second: As the God of creation He calls into being that which does not exist*

Heb 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

He was beyond the age of creating life but God gave life to Sarah's womb

II) V18-19 Who *contrary to hope in hope believed*, so that he became the father of

When there was no reason to have any hope for an heir,

**Abraham had hope**

**Abraham hoped against hope and did not allow doubt to cause him to waver**

**III) *Hope* is often defined as confident expectation**

**Ro 8:24-25 Hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently**

**IV) He was called by God when he was living in Ur of the Chaldees**

**He was 75 when he left Haran, and when he left he was childless (Gen 12:4)**

**V) Again, when God called him, he promised he would be father of many nations**

**At the age of 86, he had Ishmael through Sarai's handmaiden, Hagar**

**Miraculously, when he was 100, Sarah at the age of 99 gave birth to Isaac**

**VI) Initially Sarah could not believe it was possible to have a child**

**Gen 18:11 says Sarah had passed the age of childbearing  
Even when it was impossible to have child, he and Sarah believed**

**VII) V20 He *did not waver* at the promise of God through unbelief but was**

**He did not vacillate between faith and doubt but remained *steadfast in faith***

**Jas 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

**VIII) Abraham believed God and believed that God kept His**

**promises**

**Paul says he did not *waver* at the promise of God through  
unbelief**

**Waver (to mentally oppose; to hesitate) in unbelief  
(distrust; unfaithfulness)**

**Abraham did not *hesitate* with unbelief, or *distrust* the promise  
of God**

**I) V21 And being *fully convinced* that what He had promised He was  
also able to**

***Fully convinced*: Entirely convinced; completely assured; fully  
persuaded**

**God had promised him he would have many children and *he  
believed Him***

**II) Let me develop this**

**III) In Gen 15 Abraham complained to God that *he had no offspring*  
The one inheriting all he had would be his chief administrator,  
Eliezer**

**Gen 15:4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man  
will not be your heir, but a son who is *your own flesh and blood* will be  
your heir.”**

**IV) As mentioned earlier, Abraham had his son Ishmael with Hagar  
Gen 16:2 Sarai said to Abram, Behold now, the Lord has  
prevented me from bearing children. go in to my servant; it may be that I  
shall obtain children by her. And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai  
Abraham thought he would help God keep His promise**

**V) Later, when God changed Sarai’s name to Sarah, He promised to  
bless her**

**Gen 17:16 I will bless her and also give you a son *by her*; then I  
will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall  
be *from her***

**VI) Hagar had given birth to Ishmael by proxy, so at first Abraham  
misunderstood**

**Now he begins to understand, laughing with joy and surprise!**

I'm one hundred years old, and Sarah is ninety! (Gen 17:17)

VII) Gen 17:18 Abraham said Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!  
Ishmael was 13 years old (V25), and Abraham loved his son  
I pray that he will also be blessed, and God said that he would  
be

VIII) Ishmael *would* be blessed, but he was not the son of the promise  
In fact, he the *son of the flesh*  
Gen 4:22-23 It is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the  
slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave  
woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman  
was born *through the promise*

IX) For Abraham's sake, God would bless Ishmael but Isaac was the  
promised one

I) Soon after, God again appeared to him as he was sitting by his tent  
He asked him *Where is Sarah, your wife?* Abraham said, *in the  
tent*

God once again said, your *wife will conceive* and have a child

II) Sarah was inside the tent but could hear the conversation  
Gen 18:11 says Abraham and Sarah were passed the age of  
childbearing

III) When Sarah heard these words, she *laughed a laugh of unbelief*  
(V12)

Gen 18:13-15 the Lord *said to Abraham* Why did Sarah laugh,  
saying Shall I surely bear a child since I am old? *Is anything too hard for  
the Lord?* At the appointed time I will return to you according to the time of  
life, and Sarah shall have a son. But Sarah denied it, saying I did not laugh,  
for she was afraid. And He said, No, *but you did laugh!*

IV) Though at first she laughed, she exercised faith and trusted God's  
promise

Heb 11:11-12 *By faith* Sarah herself also received strength to  
conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because

she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him *as good as dead*, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

V) This is why he is considered a *righteous man*

He trusted God, knowing that God would honor His promise  
Num 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

VI) V22 And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness

Paul's point: God graciously recognized his faith and granted righteousness

VII) V23 Now it was not written for *his sake alone* that it was imputed to him but

The same principles that Abraham learned instruct us today  
God's grace, his faith, and his receiving righteousness all apply to us

VIII) We need this story because we are saved in the same way that he was

It was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him but also for us

Scripture is to apply to us, and encourage us

I) V24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up

The same principles that Abraham learned apply to us today  
Righteousness is imputed to us through faith, and not works alone

II) We also believe in the one who raised Jesus *from the dead*

Abraham's body was as good as dead, as was Sarah's womb  
The miraculous *gift of life* seen in Isaac is a glimpse of *Jesus' resurrection*

III) V25 Who was *delivered up* because of our offenses and was raised because of

**Delivered: Surrendered, yielded up**  
**Offenses: False steps; error, transgressions; lapses**

**IV) He was the one Who suffered the sentence of death *for our offenses (sins)***

**He served our sentence because death is the penalty for sin  
(Ro 6:23)**

**Ezek 18:4 Behold, every soul belongs to Me; both father and son are Mine. The soul who sins is the one who will die**

**V) Jesus was delivered up because of *our offenses***

**Is 53:4-5 Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.**

**VI) He was raised because of our justification**

**In His resurrection, you are now righteous before God and stand not guilty**

**VII) He was raised up so that justification might take effect in us**

**Through His resurrection we are justified: sins pardoned, reconciled to Him**

**VIII) His resurrection is what effectively justifies the believer**

**It rendered His work complete when He rose from the dead  
When we placed trust in Him, we experienced the blessing of justification**