

Take Them (Scriptures) and Learn to Run

Romans 4 Part 2

April 19, 2026

Context of Romans...

- apostle Paul around AD 57
- Jewish and Gentile believers
- cultural tensions - the Law, identity, and salvation
- complete explanation of the gospel message of Jesus Christ

- Romans reveals the righteousness of God offered to all people thru faith in Jesus Christ...
- Does our faith race reflect living out this Kingdom reality in our lives?

Paul's Points (Romans 4:1-12)

- Paul points out that Abraham was declared righteous before circumcision, and the Law was established (400 years).
- Paul points out that King David was living under the law, yet he spoke of sin not being counted against us 1000 years before Jesus died on the cross for our sins?

Paul's Points (Romans 4:1-12)

- Jesus is the fulfillment of the faith Abraham lived out.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the forgiveness David celebrated.
- Paul's point, the law, and our works do not bring righteousness.

Romans 4:13-14 (NLT)

Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. ¹⁴ If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless.

Romans 4:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

Romans 4:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ 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.

- **faith** - not just believe something is true, but lean your weight on it, a relational trust, a confidence in God's character and promises
- **free gift, grace**, - a gift you did not earn and cannot earn
- **promise** - a great nation; expanded to “a family of faith from all nations.”

Romans 4:17 (NLT)

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 4:18-19 (NLT)

¹⁸ Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” ¹⁹ And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb.

- **Hope** - the confident expectation, certain anticipation of what God has promised.
- The message - that against all-natural expectation of circumstances, Abraham believed God based on God's nature.
- Not focusing on the circumstances
- Focusing on who God is

Romans 4:20-21 (NLT)

²⁰ Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. ²¹ He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever He promises.

We can live a life of **FAITH** ...
that is growing **stronger** each day.
A faith journey that brings **glory to God**.

Our **FAITH** journey includes us trusting (**FAITH**) God
receiving His **GRACE**,
anticipating (**HOPE**) God's nature,
leaning into God's **PROMISES** of who He is.

Romans 4:22-23 (NLT)

²⁰ Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. ²¹ 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. ²³ And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded

Romans 4:24-25 (NLT)

²⁴ for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He (Jesus) was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

Our Faith race...

God makes people right with Himself,
not by our works or law keeping,
but by **HIS GRACE** through **FAITH** in **Jesus**.

Our works and law keeping (obedience to
Christ) is the **FRUIT** of that **RIGHT**
RELATIONSHIP.

- **What slows down this Faith race?**
- When we exchange ...
- Leading with FAITH, GRACE, HOPE (PROMISES)
- For
- Leading with our own works (what we do),
- Leading with the law (what we think we should do)
- Is God inviting you to make an exchange back?

Our promise in our **Faith** race ...

... assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He (Jesus) was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

(Romans 4:24-25) (NLT)