

## Romans 4 All By Faith

Salvation is by grace through faith. It has always been that way and it always will. Paul takes time to examine Judaism's greatest forefather, Abraham, to show us that he was saved by grace through faith.

Topic- Faith

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### 4:1-8 By Faith, Not Works

Matthew 1:1 — The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham mentioned 30x in the gospels.

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Accounted = logizomai(λογίζομαι); Essentially an accounting term; to reckon, credit, account, calculate, impute, etc.

-1/4 of its 40 uses is found in Romans 4

LOGIZOMAI 11X IN ROMANS 4:

“it was accounted to him for righteousness” (V3)

“the wages are not counted as grace” (V4)

“his faith is accounted for righteousness” (V5)

“God imputes righteousness apart from works” (V6)

“the LORD shall not impute sin” (V8)

“faith was accounted to Abraham” (V9)

“How then was it accounted?” (V10)

“righteousness might be imputed to them” (V11)

“it was accounted to him for righteousness” (V22)

“that it was imputed to him” (V23)

“It shall be imputed to us” (V24)

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Biblical “grace” is a gift.

If mercy is “not getting what you deserve,” then grace is, “getting what you don't deserve.”

God's  
Riches

At  
Christ's  
Expense

“the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.”

-NIV = but as an obligation.

-ESV = but as his due.

-NLT = but something they have earned.

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If works are required for salvation, then how many? Which works?

-How much obedience? How much repentance? How much failure is too much?

-What happens when I mess up?

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“Him who justifies the ungodly”

Galatians 2:16 — “knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

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Psalm 32:1-2 — A Psalm of David. A Contemplation. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Psalm 51 vs Psalm 32

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4:9-12 By Faith, Not Circumcision

Abraham is justified in Genesis 15

-Abraham is circumcised in Genesis 17

-Like baptism the rite follows and signifies, but it does not save.

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4:13-17a By Faith, Not Law

“...the promise that he would be the heir of the world... through the righteousness of faith.”

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Laws only make transgression, they don't make people good.

Are there any laws in our land that say:

- Do three good deeds per day
- Give to the poor
- Be kind to each other

Romans 3:20 — ...for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Galatians 3:24-25 — Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

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“Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace”

Grace & Faith vs. Works & Law

- If there is a law, you must work it.
- If there is grace, you must receive it.
- Yet, how do you receive something you cannot see?

Romans 11:6 — And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

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4:17b-22 By Faith Despite Circumstances

“God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.”

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Hope = elpis(ἐλπίς); The root word is elpō, which means “to anticipate.”

- The NKJV translates it as hope 54/54x.
- Thayer's Lexicon defines the word as “expectation whether of good or of ill”

Hebrews 11:1 ESV — Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

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“he did not consider”

Matthew 7:3 — “And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?”

Hebrews 10:24 — And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

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It never says that he had no doubts.

Genesis 17:17 — Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

Faith is not having no doubts,  
-faith is about obeying despite doubts.

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“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith.”

Waver = diakrinō(διακρίνω); 1) to separate, make a distinction, discriminate 2) to withdraw from 3) to separate one's self in a hostile spirit, to oppose, strive with dispute, contend

Abraham felt the weight of facing an impossibility, but he did not walk away from the promise.

-He felt the weakness of his flesh, but he trusted the power of God.

-He saw the deadness of his body, but he believed in the God who gives life to the dead.

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“being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

Hebrews 11:13 — These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

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4:23–25 — By Faith in God, Who Raised Jesus From the Dead

1 Corinthians 10:11 — Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Romans 8:32 — He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

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We all may have doubts, but those who live by faith (“the just shall live by faith”) march onward (without wavering) even when the doubts feel crippling.

What about when you don't have enough strength to carry on?

-Jesus knows how you feel.

Luke 22:42-44 — “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”

-Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

-And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Jesus knows what it feels like to not have enough strength to carry on, but once strengthened, He continued to the cross.

Hebrews 12:2 — looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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Hebrews 4:14-16 — Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

-For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

-Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Faith is NOT “no doubts”

-Faith is NOT “no fears”

-Faith is NOT “no weakness”

-Faith is continuing onward despite all those

-Faith is coming to the throne of grace when you feel weak, knowing that there is a loving God there who desires to help you.