

--- Mistakes when reading scripture ---

1. **Making it** _____.
2. **Reading it** _____.
3. **Not understanding the difference between**
_____ **and** _____.

(Romans 4:1-3) Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? 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.

For the Scriptures tell us,

“Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.”

--- Faith defined ---

Faith is not me working for
a _____ **in this world,**
producing a _____ **with God...**
that gives glory _____.

Faith is God's finished work for me resulting in
a _____ **with God,**
producing a _____ **in this world...**
that gives glory _____.

(Romans 4:4-8) When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners. David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it:

“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of sin.”

(Romans 4:16) 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.

--- Genuine Faith ---

(Romans 4:20-21) Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.

- ✓ **Faith in** _____.

(Exodus 34:6-7 ESV) The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

(Romans 4:22-25) And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded 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. He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

- ✓ **Faith in the** _____ **resulting in**
my position of _____.

(Romans 5:1-2) Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

- ✓ **Faith in the** _____ **resulting in**
a greater understanding of _____ **for me.**

(Romans 5:3-5 ESV) Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.