

TRANSFORMATIONS WEEK 3: FAITH 'What do you have faith for?'

6:35-6:50 WHAT DID YOU HEAR GOD SPEAK TO YOU THROUGH LAST WEEKS SCRIPTURE?

6:50-7:30 WORD TALK

Abraham Justified by Faith

THE FOUNDATION- FAITH THAT JESUS IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS AND OUR SALVATION HINGES ON THAT BELIEF, NOT ON WHAT WE DO

⁴ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”^[a]

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ “Blessed are those
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

⁸ Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”^[b]

⁹ Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness. ¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! ¹¹ And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. ¹² And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

YET, WE FIND OURSELVES CONTINUALLY IN THIS STRUGGLE OF GOING BACK TO OUR OWN SELF SUFFICIENCY

Galatians 5:1-6

¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be

circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. [4](#) You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. [5](#) For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. [6](#) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

ROMANS 4 AGAIN

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations."¹⁸ He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." ²³ The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

WHAT EXACTLY DID ABRAHAM HAVE TO BELIEVE IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED, HE BELIEVED WHAT GOD SAID ABOUT HIS FUTURE, HIS CALLING, YET HE DID WAIVER, AND EVEN SO, IN HIS IMPERFECETION,

JAMES 2

[14](#) What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? [15](#) Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. [16](#) If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? [17](#) In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

[18](#) But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. [19](#) You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

[20](#) You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? [21](#) Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he

offered his son Isaac on the altar? [22](#) You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. [23](#) And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” ^e and he was called God’s friend. [24](#) You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

[25](#) In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? [26](#) As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

BREAKOUT TIME:

What areas in your life are you still trying to rescue yourself through sheer effort, rather than trusting in the Grace of God?

What is your next step of faith to trust in God’s grace, love and plan for that part of your life?

Take a moment to listen to Holy Spirit for what someone else shared and pray for them.

Read the above scriptures this week. Pray and ask the Lord to speak to you about what you want more faith for?

Journal what you hear Holy Spirit saying and pray for the Lord to show you HIS truth in that area.