

# Footsteps of Faith

Romans 4:1-12

**Big Idea:** We're saved by grace alone; so, embrace your identity in Christ and live by faith.

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup> "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

<sup>9</sup> Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. <sup>10</sup> How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. <sup>11</sup> He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, <sup>12</sup> and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

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so, embrace your identity in Christ  
and live by faith.

## Footsteps of Faith

1. It's better to live by grace than works (vv. 1-8).
2. People saved by grace live by faith (vv. 1-8).
3. Grace leads us to good works (vv. 9-12).

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What then shall we say was gained by **Abraham**, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if **Abraham** was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "**Abraham** believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as **David** also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup> "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

## Works vs. Grace (Ps 32; 51; Rom 4:7-8)

### **Works**

- i. Exhausting (Ps 3-4).
- ii. Not enough time (v. 6).
- iii. Sorrowful (v. 10).

### **Grace**

- i. Forgiveness (v. 5).
- ii. Deliverance (v. 7).
- iii. Love, rejoicing (v. 11).



God's grace is like the sunlight which not merely dispels the darkness but gives us warmth and new life.

## 2. People saved by grace live by faith.

- i. Abraham left everything to go to an unknown place.
- ii. David trusted God to protect him through all things.
- iii. A great cloud of witnesses surrounds us (Heb 12:1).
- iv. Mature believers all around us (Titus 2:1-6)

FBC member live differently because of grace.



FBC has ...

- Given \$6M to missions.
- Baptized > 4000 believers.
- Faithfulness for generations.

How are you living?

### 3. Grace leads us to good works (vv. 9-12).

<sup>10</sup> How then was [righteousness] counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. <sup>11</sup> He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.

The purpose was to make him the **father of all who believe** without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, <sup>12</sup> and to make **him the father of the circumcised** who are not merely circumcised but who *also* walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Receiving grace results in footsteps of faith.

- i. Abraham believes God (Gen 15:6a).
- ii. Abraham is called righteous (Gen 15:6b).
- iii. He's circumcised 14 years later (Gen 17:11).
- iv. All who have faith like Abraham, are counted as righteous.

Real faith means we hold on to God's promises through the difficulties and victories of life.

## Watchout for adding to your faith:

- i. Embrace your identity in Christ. You're *justified!*
- ii. Let God's promises (*not your past*) define your future.
- iii. Fully obey God, your confidence is in him.

Have you rested your hopes in life and salvation on the character and promises of God?