

Romans 12:12 (ESV): Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Paul gives an example of one saved by faith. Paul teaches that we aren't saved by Law, works, or religion. We are to follow the path of Abraham. He believed in the **power** of God and the **promise** of God. What then, 4000 years ago, was

If God were to ask you: "Why should I let you into my heaven," what would you say? In Verse 3 what did Abraham believe to have righteousness reckoned to him?

Besides Abraham, who else is given as an example as an Old Testament Christian? How, in Verse 6, is David reckoned as righteous?

What did David say about being forgiven (4:6–8)?

In 4:10, was Abraham's faith reckoned to him as righteousness because he was circumcised?

Why was Abraham justified by faith before he was circumcised (4:9–12)?

Why is 4:3 a shock to the Jews?

Abraham was reckoned righteous without circumcision (his faith was without works or religion). How is this difficult for the "religious" man today?

What does it mean to have the faith of Abraham?

How can we remind one another in daily life of the truth of imputed righteousness?

How has God been faithful in your past? How can God's past faithfulness grow your confidence that he is trustworthy as you walk into the future?

What does Paul tell us about the God in whom Abraham believed (4:17–22)?

How does the gospel of Jesus give us even more assurance that God has kept his promise (4:23–25)?

Our salvation cannot be earned. But a genuine commitment always results in action.

Our commitment to Jesus is powered by the grace we have been given and demonstrated by works we put into action. What might it look like if someone focused

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too much on grace at the expense of works? ... focus on works at the expense of grace?

Can you think of any examples in your life when you focused too much on one, while excluding the other?

Looking at Abraham's story, we also find that he heard nothing from God for 13 years (Genesis 11-17). This kind of patience and faithfulness can be no small challenge for any of us. How do the following verses help us remain faithful and patient even when God seems to be silent?

Psalms 37:7-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ Be still before the Lord

and wait patiently for him;

do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.

⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;

do not fret—it leads only to evil.

⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed,

but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

James 5:7-11 New International Version (NIV)

Patience in Suffering

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Which verse above encourages you the most when it comes to being patient and faithful?

DIGGING DEEPER

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[Covenants - Bible Project](#)

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[What Kind of Faith Saves Us? - Chris Brown](#)

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[Every Coin Has Two Sides - Larry Osborne](#)

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