

Abraham, Father of the Faithful

For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

Romans 3:28

1. Abraham is the example of someone saved by _____ in God. **Romans 3:23 and Genesis 12-13**

*The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. **Genesis 12:1***

*And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. **James 2:23***

*In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, **Hebrews 1:1-2***

*So Abram left, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. **Genesis 12:4***

*He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. **Genesis 12:5***

*The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. **Genesis 12:7***

*From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, **Genesis 12:8***

*So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. **Genesis 13:1***

*From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier **Genesis 13:2***

*He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. **Acts 7:5***

For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrew 11:10

He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Genesis 15:5

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:6

2. Abraham’s _____ shows we are saved by faith and not works. Romans 3:28 and Romans 4

For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. Romans 3:28

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. Romans 4:1-2

What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Romans 4:3

Imputed Righteousness

Not an earned righteousness, but a righteousness given to us by God.

David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: Romans 4:6

“Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.” Romans 4:7-8, Psalm 32:1-2

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. Romans 4:9

Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! Romans 4:10

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 are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. Romans 4:16

Three Characteristics present in vibrant faith

1. Abraham trusted God to do the _____.

*As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. **Romans 4:17***

*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. **Romans 4:19***

2. Willing to risk everything to _____ God
3. Survives unfavorable _____

*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." **Romans 4:18***

*Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. **Romans 4:20-21***

3. How should the example of Abraham's faith _____ to us today? Application

1. Our faith enables us to live _____.

*However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. **Romans 4:5***

***We are saved by trusting God to fulfill His promise,
not by our works of the law.***

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **John 11:25-26***

***When we put our trust in Him, we have the hope of salvation.
We are considered righteous when we trust God to do what He promised to do.***

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Psalm 107:1-2 (NKJV)

2. Our faith should alter the way we _____.

I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. Luke 11:8

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Luke 11:9-10

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, Ephesians 3:21

Four ways God answers prayers...

1. Yes
2. No
3. Wait a while
4. You have got to be _____!

***Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare* hymn by John Newton**

*Thou art coming to a King,
large petitions with thee bring,
for His grace and pow'r are such,
none can ever ask too much.*

3. Our faith affects our area of Christian _____.

***God’s calling on your life is the call to come closer.
He calls us to come closer to Him in relationship and in faith.***

*“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”
—Jim Elliot, missionary martyred for his faith*

Key: faith, experience, impossible, obey, circumstances, apply, confidently, pray, kidding, service