



Empowering People to Change the World

**Believe God for Miracles
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Road Declaration

In Romans 4, Paul is using Abraham as the *father of our faith* not just for the Jews but also for the Greek, the Gentiles.

Abraham is amazing on so many fronts:

- 1. He left riches and stability in Ur of the Chaldees to follow a prophetic word he heard from God (Genesis 12).**
- 2. He believed God when God spoke to him that he would be so mightily used that from his loins would come a great nation that would cover the earth (Genesis 15).**
- 3. The Bible repeats numerous times that Abraham “Believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness”, one of the most important passages in all the Bible.**
- 4. Abraham is not just the father of our faith for salvation but also for our growth in Christ, our sanctification.**

“Believe God for Miracles”

Romans 4:3

One of the most powerful verses in the Bible:

- The word used here is *logizomai*:
 - It is used forty-one times in the New Testament.
 - Nineteen times in Romans.
 - Eleven times in Chapter 4 alone.

So, this is the most important chapter in the Bible on our justification by faith.

- Our New King James Version uses the words: “accounted”, “counted”, and “imputed.”
- It is a mathematical calculation in which God is saying that He has written off as gone forever all the sin in your life if you have trusted in His vicarious atonement through Jesus Christ.
- God has then deposited into your account His own righteousness to your credit.

- So the books that once showed you completely bankrupt now show you are the possessor of all that God requires for eternal life.

Romans 4:7-9

- Blessed means *happy*. We are our most happy when we know that all our lawless deeds and sins are forgiven.
- Sins of omission and sins of commission.
- For the Jew and the non-Jew, God is no longer partial to any of us. Whether you grew up church-ed or unchurch-ed. Whether you were the worst of sinners or the most moral person, we all still need God's grace.
- For all of us we must be justified by Christ.
- God is just and the justifier of those who are in Christ.
- Self-righteous people always tell you that they are *good people*, but as we study Romans, we realize that none of us are good! The only One who is good is God.
- Our righteousness is *accounted to us* when we believe in Christ.
- Chapter 4 has some of the most powerful arguments ever given of the beautiful grace of God with no human fingerprints upon it.

Verse 9

- Here's that word again: "accounted" to Abraham.
- Here is that mathematical formula all over again: the ledger said Abraham was bankrupt, but God has credited to him all righteousness.
- So, he asks an important question...

Verse 10

- Now I realize that we have many guests with us today and you are asking "Why are they talking so much about circumcision?" First of all, we don't usually.
- But Romans was written partly to Jewish believers, and this was extremely important to them.

- To the Jew this was really important. In the Talmud a Jew was told that he could not even come to the Passover Feast without the mark of Abraham, which was circumcision.
- Rabbinic tradition said that if a Jew turned back to idols, and was sent to hell, that God would actually put back the foreskin or uncircumcize them before sending them to hell...that's how much the Jews venerated circumcision.
- This is radical stuff: Abram was uncircumcised when he believed, at least fourteen years before he was circumcised, he trusted in Christ...it is another four hundred thirty years before the Law was given.

Verses 11-12

- Circumcision was a sign of faith to the Jews! Baptism today is a sign of faith. Circumcision didn't save the Jew and baptism doesn't save the Christian.
- Righteousness is accounted to those who believe: Jew or Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, baptized or unbaptized.

Verses 13-15

- The promise was not made to Abraham—but to all of us who would believe in Christ, the seed (singular).
- The promise was not made to those who would keep the Law—that came four hundred thirty years later.
- The promise was made for those who believe in Christ by faith.
- Abraham believed God! He did not believe in God...even the demons do that.
- He believed God...God wants to be believed! Trusted!
- This is the point of the book of Galatians.
- Galatians 2:21

"I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died in vain."

- Christ was made sin on our behalf so that we could be forgiven of all our sin.
- The Law was given to show us that we could not satisfy the perfect God who demanded perfection.
- The Law humbles us so that grace can exalt Christ.

Verse 16

- We are justified by faith through grace; thus, we cannot boast about anything...God has done it all.

Grace is God's Riches at Christ's Expense.

- The promise stands based on faith, not the Law.
- In other words, if the promise of God was dependent on us keeping the Law, then how could we then depend on Him.
- God could make such a promise! He could have said, "if you keep the Law you can go to heaven" but Paul is saying that you would have no certainty!
- I mean we would be so insecure. By 10 a.m. we would have broken some part of the Law and we would be headed to hell.
 - You look at someone and get angry...guilty!!
 - You covet this guy's cool truck...guilty!!
 - You think a lustful thought...guilty!!
 - You just drive down Woodmen...guilty!!
- The reason God's promise is sure is because it is dependent on grace, dependent on God, not us.
- It is dependent on being undeserved! Unearned! That's pretty remarkable stuff.
- That makes me want to sing, to worship, to be thankful.

The next four verses are staggering in magnitude!

Verses 17-20

Faith produces Life!

- Very interesting...it is in past tense (Genesis 15), Isaac's not even born yet.
- The God we serve calls the things that are not as though they are! Because they are in His heart—they exist in His heart before they are reality on earth.
- This is all before Isaac was born! God already knows what He's going to do.
- You may have no hope today! But God does, God has hope for you.
- He sees what He is going to do in your life twenty years from now if you will believe.

Faith is a Choice you must make—first for salvation, but then throughout life. Faith births new things in our heart.

- Imagine this...Abraham is about a hundred years old...as good as dead, but God see's it and Abraham believed God!
- He believed in the word of God. That is all he had to believe in was the word of God: "So shall your descendants be."
- There's no church, no Bible, no people of God yet, and he believed God's word!!!
- God has hope for you today—in your impossible situation, He sees what is going to be.

Choose to *Believe God* and watch what God can DO!!

Four Ways to Miraculous Believing!

- 1. Believe God for Great Things—Abraham became the father of nations because he believed. What about you? Your life? What great things does God want to do in and through you?**
- 2. Believe God for Dead Things—He will come with His resurrection power.**
- 3. Believe God against all Hope—He will give you supernatural hope when you are hopeless.**

4. Believe God for the Unseen—He will give you eyes to see!

God wants to birth something in your life. What is dead, dormant, and defeated that God wants to resurrect within you?

Verse 19

- In other words, if he looked at his own body, he could have been staggered...but he didn't.
- Now Sarah did, she laughed, but Abraham did not.
- He did not look at the circumstances but believed God.
- So, they named the kid *laughter*, Isaac.

What are you looking at today and saying “That will never happen! That’s impossible!” Maybe God wants to do a miracle?

Verses 21-25

- This is why it is called the Gospel; the Good News.
- The Bible has not been given just to substantiate a record of some guys who lived thousands of years ago, but rather is to pass on to us if we will also *believe God* in the same way, the righteousness of God is accounted to us.
- The impossible thing can happen to you also if you will believe!
- Just like a miracle happened for Abraham and Sarah, God can do the same thing for you!
- The impossible thing is that you are a sinner, and you can't remove that—even your thoughts make you a sinner; it's your nature—we are all sentenced to death—but God is holy, and He is separate from sin and yet He has devised a plan.
- He is just and the justifier of the ungodly!
- I thought that salvation was being a *goody two shoes*, but I looked at my shoes and they weren't too shiny! I thought I had to wear a little tie and go to confirmation class...and I tried to be religious, but I knew the deep-seated problems of my heart, my thoughts, my motives.

- But then somehow, God had grace for me: He put someone across my path, a radio program, a billboard, an article, a passing comment.
- And you realize there is a loophole in all of this; an open door for me!!
- There is a Way, and a Truth, and a Life: Jesus! And He has never taken His eyes off of you! He wants to wash and cleanse you.
- When Jesus looks at you, He see's righteousness, because it has been accounted to you. He doesn't see your sin anymore.

Do you need to believe God, not just believe in God, but believe God for something? Stand up...