



**Romans:
Life through
faith in Jesus**



Romans 4

Supernatural Righteousness

Romans: Life through faith in Jesus



Romans 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.”



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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:



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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.”

⁹ Is this blessedness only for the
circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised?



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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,



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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.



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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.



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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.



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¹⁷ 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 into being things that were not.



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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.



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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.”



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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.

A stone path leads towards a wooden cross in the distance, set against a dark background. The path is made of large, irregular stones and is flanked by a low stone wall. The cross is made of rough, weathered wood. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the path and cross being the primary focus.

Questions for the original audience

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1. How does one receive Righteousness?

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A stone path made of irregular, dark grey stones leads from the foreground towards a wooden cross in the distance. The cross is made of rough, weathered wood and stands against a dark, black background. The path is flanked by low stone walls on both sides.

Gen. 15:6

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

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Psalm 32:1-2

- ¹ Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
- ² Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count
against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.



2. How is Righteousness NOT earned?

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Romans 4:13

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.



**3. Who can receive this
righteousness?**

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Gen. 17:5

⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.



Questions for us

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1. Who can receive this Righteousness?

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2. How is Righteousness NOT earned?

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Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.





3. How does one receive righteousness?

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Gal. 3:16

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.



John 8

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”

⁵⁷ “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”

⁵⁸ “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”



John 8

⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.



2 Cor. 5:21

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



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