

Romans: The Gospel

## The Righteousness of Faith

Romans 4:5-25

<p><b>Last time: The Law of Faith</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The Law reveals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- God's righteousness</li> <li>- Our unrighteousness</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>The Law of Faith</b> (fulfilment/establishment not through obedience, but through faith)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>No boasting</b> in faith</li> </ul> <p><b>Abraham's righteousness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>FROM</b> God, not himself</li> <li>● <b>THROUGH</b> faith</li> </ul> <p><b>Faith produced obedience</b> <b>Obedience produced a picture of Jesus</b></p>
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<p><b>[Pray]</b></p> <p><b>:5-8</b></p> <p><b>King David</b> Another person that the Jews/Israelites loved <b><u>And loved to boast about</u></b></p> <p>Great king, warrior, song writer, little boy/young man who fought goliath "man after <b>God's own heart</b>"</p> <p><b><u>Yet David sinned greatly</u></b> And knew God was merciful and threw himself at the feet of the King</p> <p>David sinning with Bathsheeba, has Uriah killed, Nathan the prophet, David repents</p>	<p><b>David sinning and counting the people,</b> (1 Chron 21) <u>chooses to fall into God's hands</u></p> <p><b>If David's works were his justification,</b></p> <p><b>his failures kept him from being justified</b></p> <p>What erases a murder?</p> <p><b>Indeed blood kept him from building the house of the Lord</b> Partly from war, but also sin</p> <p><b>Why? God's kingdom isn't built on judgment. Isn't built on the blood of his enemies</b></p> <p>(although His enemies blood will be as high as the horse's bridle <b>Rev 14:20</b>)</p>
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**What did Jesus boast about,  
in a way?  
He loved being called Son of David**

Their relationship was intact  
and on the best footing ever - faith in God

**God's promises to David would not be  
revoked! Because they were GOD'S  
PROMISES**

and God knew all David would do before  
he was even born.

**Romans 11:29** - For the gifts and the calling  
of God are irrevocable. (unrepented,  
unregretted)

**Irrevocable**, can't be unsaid, taken back from  
where they were spoken

**So where does the blessing  
of God come from?**

- Our work?
- God's work!

*Chicken or egg - our work/obedience, God's  
work/obedience - the cross comes first.*

**What does the blessing give?**

**Forgiveness of sins**

- completely.
- Underserved.
- Could never be paid off.

**We're bought back** (redeemed) **by His work**

**The way to get blessing?**

(God's joy, peace)

**Through faith in Jesus**

**What does that faith believe?  
God's righteousness is big enough  
to deal with our unrighteousness**

*This is Paul quoting David's Psalm 32*

- Deed forgiven
- Sins covered
- Sin not calculated, accounted for  
(like your tax bill)

**What's the heavenly  
accountant's math?**

**Sin not accounted for judgment**  
**Faith accounted for righteousness**  
**The blessing is righteousness**

**You've heard of the law of gravity?**  
**This is the Law of Faith.**

**Not of works of the law.**  
**But deeds of faith.**  
**Starting with believing God.**

**If we work to obey the law**  
(to make ourselves acceptable)  
**we'll find burden**

**If we trust in the law of faith**  
(that God did the work)  
**we'll find blessing**

**Abraham did. David did. & More**  
(Heb 11 Hall of Faith)  
**Do we?**

Christmas gets this wrong -  
it's not naughty or nice, we're all naughty

**But we all have the same great gift to  
receive with our names on it - through  
faith: Jesus, God's righteousness**

## :9-12

**This is a big deal!**  
**When does the blessing of faith arrive?**

*Like anointing, of King David, the anointing came, then the office*

**When were you saved?**

- When Jesus showed up and you believed.
- You didn't conjure him up first.
- He came to you, you were born again.

**The blessing comes through faith, faith enables obedience from the heart**

**Circumcision was the sign of obedience THROUGH faith.** Not the earning of it.

**Circumcision**

- **The seal of righteousness**
- **Not the basis of it**

**Seal** - on books, impression made by, confirmed, proved, authenticated

*Kara's wax seal*

**When did Abraham have the faith? Before circumcision**  
**If he didn't have it, he'd never do it**

**1) Abraham would be the father of a nation,** interesting that the sign of his faith was related to fatherly reproduction

**2) Abraham would be called the Father of faith**

**This fatherhood is the greater fatherhood**  
**And came before the physical fatherhood or its sign**

**His fatherhood is of a physical nation Israel, through the son of faith, of promise Isaac**

**Not the flesh** - works, lack of faith, trying to do it in his own way, Ishmael

**How does righteousness transfer from father to son? Faith (believing)**

**Not just the circumcision (the physical nation of Israel,** or even those who have joined in the ritual)

**Those who "walk in the steps of faith" Abraham had before being circumcised**

**And what caused Abram to walk in faith? The promise of God**  
 (and he did this when he was 75...)

**Gen 12:1-4** - Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram [was] seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

**How important it is we're hearing from God!**

Devotional time, Bible study, church fellowship, walking out your faith

**Rom 10:17** - So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Are you hearing from God? Logos/Rhema\***

<p><b>:13-15</b></p> <p><b>The promise - heir of the world</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He's receiving the world as his inheritance</li> <li>• From God</li> <li>• By becoming a child of God</li> <li>• Through faith</li> </ul> <p><b>Inheritance never comes by work, but by the will of the father!</b></p> <p><b>It was God's will to give!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shown by the promise</li> <li>• Received in faith</li> <li>• Sealed by circumcision</li> </ul> <p><b>The physical nation was a picture of the spiritual one</b></p> <p><b>Col 2:17 - which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.</b></p> <p><b>If you can be an heir by obeying the law... (outward works)</b></p>	<p><b>Than what's the point of faith Or even the promise?</b></p> <p><b>The result of the law? Wrath. (cops theme)</b></p> <p><b>If there was no law there's no way to break it Because there's nothing to break</b></p> <p>(meme, can't break the law if there is no law)</p> <p><b><u>In a way, that's what faith does</u></b></p> <p><b><u>You don't need the law anymore It's established. It's fulfilled. There's no penalty of wrath. There's only the reward of righteousness.</u></b></p> <p><b>Jesus, the promised son, the heir, obeyed to death and is the object of our faith where we inherit his righteousness by faith</b></p>
<p><b>:16-18</b></p> <p><b>Of faith According to grace</b></p> <p>Again, faith is the conduit But grace is the reason</p> <p><b><u>Even in faith, it's God's grace that grants His righteousness.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Why? That the promise might be sure</u></b></p> <p><b>What a relief! The promise <u>sure!</u> It can't be undone Won't be undone</b></p>	<p><b>Has <u>nothing</u> to do with my performance</b></p> <p><b>It has <u>everything</u> to do with God's grace</b></p> <p><i>(don't worry, we'll talk about grace and our responsibility in Ch. 6)</i></p> <p><b>Promise to whom? The seed!</b> The offspring!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nation of Israel</li> <li>• The people of faith (the church)</li> </ul> <p><b>Heb 7:9-10 - Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.</b></p>

<p><b>Faith connects us forward and backward in time</b></p> <p>There's a lineage of faith that we can HAVE Abraham as our father, even though we don't have a Jewish bone in our body</p>	<p><b>Doesn't that feel good, secure, sound, to know that you're in a family of faith?</b></p> <p><i>Blood family, faith family ties *</i></p>
<p><b>As it is written... I love that God's promises are written down!</b></p> <p><i>So we can go back and prove He does what He says</i></p> <p><i>That we can have a sure contract of the promise (covenant, testament*)</i></p> <p><b>When God speaks to you, do you write it down?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Highlights, Underlines</li> <li>● Notes in Bible</li> <li>● Journaling, screenshots</li> </ul>	<p><b>How good it is to be able to get a word from God, write it down, put your faith in it to come to pass - and when it does,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● go AHA, LOOK! GOD PROMISED!</li> <li>● I waited in faith!</li> <li>● He fulfilled!</li> <li>● I received!</li> </ul> <p><b>In the presence of Him whom he believed</b></p> <p><b>Faith is never abstract. Faith is always born in God's presence. It's relational.</b></p> <p><i>"Leap of faith" is the flesh's version of faith</i></p>
<p><b>We may have real faith But it must be in the real God</b></p> <p><i>Muslims having real faith in killing themselves for a chance</i></p> <p><i>People in Africa believing a false prophet about a flood and leaving</i></p> <p><i>Sometimes I think they're faith is more real than ours - because they actually live it out</i> - <i>Even though our God is the real God</i></p>	<p><b>Who's our God?</b></p> <p><b>1 - The one Who gives life to the dead</b></p> <p>Resurrection is the real sign of God's power over life. Not just creating it. But bringing it back.</p> <p><i>False resurrection of AC</i></p> <p><b>Real faith begins with this. If we believe God can raise the dead, then it's pretty easy to believe he can do anything else</b></p>
<p><b>2 - Calls those things that don't exist as though they did</b></p> <p><b>Gen 1:1-4</b> - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] on the face of the deep.</p>	<p>And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that [it was] good; and God divided the light from the darkness.</p> <p><b>Out of nothing, everything*</b> Nothing can't create, evolution*</p>

<p><b>When God called you, where were you?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were you a giant of faith?</li> <li>• Or a giant failure of the flesh?</li> </ul> <p><b>He called you, who were nothing To be something.</b></p> <p><b>And more than something. Children of God.</b></p> <p><b>That's a relief!</b></p>	<p>I don't have to be something for God to love me</p> <p>For God to see me. For God to call me.</p> <p>He calls us, who are nothing, to be who he's called us to be</p> <p>To be that person of faith, even when we had none of our own.</p> <p><b>Do you hear God calling you?</b></p>
<p><b>Who contrary to hope, in hope, believed It's easy to hope when we can see the way out</b></p> <p><b><u>Real faith comes when we can't see, but only hear God's promise</u></b></p> <p><b>Jhn 20:29 - Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed [are] those who have not seen and [yet] have believed."</b></p>	<p><b>Heb 11:1-3</b> - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a [good] testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.</p> <p><b>Became father...<u>according to what was spoken</u></b></p> <p><b>The reason Abraham became the father? Because God spoke it.</b> It was God's will.</p> <p>Their faith in obedience, their faith in Abraham being their physical father was misplaced!</p> <p><b>IT should have always been in the God who SPOKE to Abraham.</b></p>
<p><b>:19-21</b></p> <p><b>Weak in faith</b> - would have been considering the physical. How is it possible?</p> <p>His body, dead! Not able to reproduce Sarah's body dead, not able to nurture life</p> <p><b>But the God who created life and can raise it from the dead said so...</b> So the dead things don't matter!</p> <p><b><u>Dead or dying faith, waivers</u></b></p>	<p><b>Jas 1:5-8</b> - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; [he is] a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.</p> <p><i>Peter on the waves</i></p> <p><b>Don't trust in dead things, trust in the word of the living God!</b></p>

<p><b>Having faith - for life, even with death looming, gives glory to God</b></p> <p>Because it's obviously supernatural</p> <p><i>Prayer, worship, evangelism, exercising the gifts, fellowship, etc. If done in faith, glorifies God.</i></p> <p><b>That doesn't mean be foolish in faith...</b> <i>Rescue boat*</i></p> <p><b>What's the basis of the faith?</b> <b>Being fully convinced</b></p> <p>God can &amp; will do what He promises It's not our promise to God, but His to us</p>	<p><b>That it has nothing to do with us</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's just in God's ability</li> <li>• And God's Word</li> <li>• And God's love &amp; grace, not our worthiness</li> </ul> <p><i>It's why Genesis and literal Bible interpretation is so important. God said it, do I believe it? If not, maybe I won't take it literally</i></p> <p><b>If God created everything, raised Jesus from the dead, of course he can do it.</b></p> <p><b><u>Will he?</u></b> That's up to Him. But if he said it, he'll do it.</p>
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<p><b>:22-25</b></p> <p><b>Therefore - Abraham got the righteousness.</b> Again, it seems ridiculously simple.</p> <p><b>Sky blue, water wet, God able!</b></p> <p><b>And we get righteousness because of believing something as obvious as that?</b></p> <p>I love this...</p> <p><b>Why was all of this written down?</b> <b>Not to toot Abraham's horn!</b></p> <p>(Moses wrote it all down together years later, oral tradition, some writing, until then, so it couldn't be for dead Abraham)</p>	<p><b>It was for us!</b> <b>Why? So we'd believe!</b> <b>And believe what?</b> God is able. God promised saving. God sent the savior. God raised the savior from the dead.</p> <p><b>And what do we get for believing?</b> <b>Not a nation, big deal!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heaven!</li> <li>• Righteousness!</li> <li>• Not be treated according to our sins!</li> </ul> <p><b>God did all this for us</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To crucify his son because of our sin</li> <li>• To raise Him from the dead to seal us as saved</li> </ul>
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**That's where faith begins**

It's what got me. Knowing God made everything, Knowing Jesus was God

**But it was meeting Him that day, putting my faith in him totally - because He is able, not me. And it's why I continue to trust His promises. He's never failed. Do you?**