

# MESSAGE NOTES

## “Practical Teaching for Everyday Living”

### THE ANATOMY OF JUSTIFYING FAITH

Romans: The Power of God

Romans 4:1-25

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For in the gospel **a righteousness from God is revealed**, a righteousness that is **by faith** from first to last, just as it is written: **“The righteous will live by faith.”** (Rom. 1:17)

**What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, 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 the Scripture (Gen. 15:6) say? **“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”**(Ro 4:1–3).

### WHAT KIND OF FAITH JUSTIFIES YOU?

#### 1. JUSTIFYING FAITH THAT DOES NOT DEPEND ON \_\_\_\_\_

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.”** 2 **“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”** 3 **I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”** (Gen. 12:1-3)

He (God) 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.”** (Gen. 15:5)

**“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”** (Gen. 15:6)

#### Notice the CONTRASTS

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Now when **a man works**, **his wages are not credited to him as a gift**, but **as an obligation**. 5 However, to the **man who does not work** but **trusts God** who justifies the wicked, **his faith is credited as righteousness.** (Ro 4:4–5).

**David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:** 7 **“Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.”** 8 **Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.”** (Rom. 4:6-7)

## 2. JUSTIFYING FAITH IS NOT \_\_\_\_\_

**Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith. (Rom. 4: 11-12) NLT**

- Abraham is first of all **the father of believing Gentiles**.
- Abraham is **the father of the Jews**, not because of their circumcision, but on the grounds of their faith.
- **He (Abraham) is the father of us all.** (Rom. 4:16)

\_\_\_\_\_ **AND HOLY** \_\_\_\_\_ - THE OUTWARD SIGN OF THE INWARD GRACE OF GOD

## 3. JUSTIFYING FAITH IS NOT KEEPING \_\_\_\_\_ (LAW)

**It was not through 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 live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, 15 because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. (Rom. 4:13-15)**

Dr. William Greenhouse says, “The Law **does not promise blessings on those who observe it**; rather it **invokes a curse on those who violate it**.”

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.** (Rom. 4:16)

## 4. JUSTIFYING FAITH BELIEVES THE \_\_\_\_\_ IS \_\_\_\_\_ IN CHRIST

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**. (Rom 4:17)

**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.” (Rom 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**, 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.”** (Rom 4:21-22)

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**. (Rom. 4:24-25)