

Faith Alone
Romans 4:1-16

Paul turns to some figures from the Scriptures to show that it is faith alone that saves.

- He turns to Abraham
 - “Faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.”

- He turns to David
 - The free gift of righteousness is a blessing.

- Our being God’s children depends on faith
 - “In order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring.”

Digging Deeper

1. Is it difficult for you to accept a gift from someone and not try to pay it back? Why do you think it’s been so difficult for people throughout history to let go of a works-based salvation and embrace salvation by grace through faith?

2. Once again, we can relate Paul’s references to circumcision with baptism in our context. Why is it so important to note that Abraham’s faith was counted to him as righteousness *before* he was circumcised? How can that help us with our understanding of what baptism is and is not?

3. Read Hebrews chapter 11 and be inspired by the faith of those mentioned. Do you struggle to maintain faith when the promise seems so far off? How can the passage from Romans 4, and this chapter from Hebrews, help your unbelief? Pray for the strengthening of your faith and for that of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

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