

#10 Always By Faith Alone

Romans 4:1-12

The THEOLOGY of Justification by Faith Alone—Romans 3:21-31
The ILLUSTRATION of Justification by Faith Alone—Romans 4:1-25

Abraham, the father of the Jewish people, was...

- A. Justified By Faith and Not By **WORKS** 4:1-8
- B. Justified By Faith and Not By **CIRCUMCISION** 4:9-12
- C. Justified By Grace and Not By **LAW** 4:13-18
- D. Justified By God's Power and Not by His Own **EFFORT** 4:19-25

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

Romans 4:1 *What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness...*

1. Abraham Was Justified By Faith Alone, Not By Works

- A. Logically, if justification was by works then human **BOASTING** would inevitably follow, and credit for salvation would be **SHARED**.
- B. Scripturally, the Old Testament is very clear that Abraham was justified by faith, and not by his good works.
 - Faith is the **ROOT**; actions are the **FRUIT**.
 - Faith is the **MEANS** of our justification before God; good works are the outgrowth, the **PROOF**, the evidence of our justification.

C. An Illustration of Justification by Faith: Gifts vs. **WAGES**

Romans 4:4 *Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.*

D. Justification by Faith Supported by David's Experience Too!

Romans 4:6 *...just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."*

2. Abraham was Justified by Faith Alone, not by Circumcision

Romans 4:9 *Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. ¹¹ He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ¹² and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.*

Memory Verse

Romans 4:5 *And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.*

A PRAYER OF FAITH FOR SALVATION

Heavenly Father, I want to be justified by faith today. I want the forgiveness You offer and Jesus' perfect record credited to me! I want to receive Your gift!

I humbly admit that I am a sinner and have fallen far short of what You require. In my life I've broken Your holy law many times. I hate my sins and I turn away from them. I long to be free of them and also the judgment that my sins deserve.

I've heard Your Good News and in this moment I'm choosing to receive Your gift of righteousness by believing that Jesus Christ is Your Son, that He died on the cross in my place in order to save ME from my sin. I also believe that He rose again to life, and is with You even now in heaven.

Because of what Jesus has done for me, I call upon You now by faith to save me. I transfer my full trust and allegiance to my new Master Jesus Christ and Him alone. For His sake please have mercy on me. Forgive me of all my sins and grant me the gift of His righteousness and Your eternal life.

And please give me Your strength to follow Jesus now as Lord of my life from this moment on and live the kind of life that pleases You.

*I now declare that JESUS IS MY LORD! THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME!
In Jesus' Name, Amen!*