

Romans 4 "Step by Step"

Step by Step is a verse by verse study through the Bible. With this approach we trust that God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, will emphasize specific points and passages to each person; training us in the Word and teaching us how to live with purpose and identity.

Chapter 4 continues with the topic of “Justification by Faith” focusing on Abraham as an example.

V1-3 God was not indebted to Abraham because Abraham was a pretty good guy. God merely brought a gift to Abraham because God is good! Abraham believed God for His promise and Abraham’s belief was credited to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:1-6

V4- Principle of works is easily understood but it is in contrast to the gift of grace. Concerning righteousness, works doesn’t work because God is not indebted to any man.

V5- To the man that believes God for righteousness, God treats that man just as if he never sinned (justified)

V6-8 David declares in Psalm 32:1,2 that blessings are upon the person who believes God for righteousness!

V9-The blessing of Psalm 32 is not just for the Jew.

V10-12 Abraham was counted righteous before circumcision was given. Circumcision is a sign of God’s covenant with Abraham. (Genesis 15, 17). Abraham therefore is an example to everyone of being made righteous by faith, apart from any works of his own.

V11-Warren Wiersbe explains it this way; “...the conclusion is obvious: circumcision had nothing to do with justification. Then why was circumcision given? It was a sign and a seal (4:11). As a sign, it was evidence that he belonged to God and believed His promise. As a seal, it was a reminder to him that God had given the promise and would keep it. Believers today are sealed by the Holy Spirit. (Eph 1:13-14, Col 2:10-12)...Circumcision did not add to Abraham’s salvation; it merely attested to it.”

V13- God’s promises are always built on believing God, that is the faith that *what He had promised He was also able to perform.*(v21)

V14-Justification by faith has no partnership with the law. Law reveals we crossed the line(transgressed). Law shows that righteousness by works would require perfect obedience.

V15- “There is sin that is not the “crossing of the line” of the Law of Moses. The root of sin isn’t in breaking the law, but in breaking *trust* with God; with denying His loving, caring purpose in every command He gives. Before Adam sinned he broke *trust* with God - therefore God’s plan of redemption is centered on a relationship of trusting love - *faith* - instead of law-keeping. When we center our relationship with God on law-keeping instead of trusting love, we go against His whole plan.” David Guzik

V16, 17 God's promise to Abraham was that he would have descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. "And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness." Gen 15:6

V18- Abraham, in spite of the circumstances and situations and mistakes...*in hope believed...* and Abraham observed God's faithfulness.

V19- Abraham did not limit God! God brought the promise to Abraham, therefore God will bring about the fulfillment! Do not limit God to your limitations!

V20- *waver*= stagger. Also means to withdraw from, to separate, to strive with a hostile spirit(attitude). Unbelief does lead to staggering, pulling back, separating, and an indifferent attitude toward God's promises.

But was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God! Remember who made the promises!

V21- Is God capable of handling your situations? Can your problems stop His promises? When we place confidence in our self we stumble. When we our confidence in God grows then faith can flourish.

V22- Abraham refused to listen to himself and turned his mind & heart toward God! Faith involves listening to what God has said rather than leaning on our own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5,6)

V23,24- His life is an example to us! Your life is an example to others, make sure it is a good example!

V24, 25- As Abraham believed the promises of God by faith, so also we believe the promise of salvation by faith in Jesus!

1. He died for our sins!
2. He rose from the grave in victory! His victory is offered to you me. His victory is our victory, we are forgiven because He is victorious!
