

Abraham Justified by Faith Romans 4: 1-25

1. When someone gives you a “free gift,” are you more inclined to just accept it, or do you feel like you should do something in return?
2. Verse 3 Paul mentions what Abraham was considered righteous for. If Abraham had really been justified by works, what would the outcome have been?
3. Verses 4-5 contrast “wages” and “grace.” What's the fundamental difference between these two ways of receiving something? In spiritual life, is it easy for people to turn grace into “earnings”?
4. In verses 6-8, when Paul quotes Psalm 32, which blessings does he particularly emphasize? How do you think “forgiveness of sins” is different from the blessings people usually chase after?
5. Was Abraham called righteous before or after he was circumcised? What was Paul trying to prove with this? Could the church today also sometimes consider certain outward actions more important than faith?
6. Verses 13-16 mention promises and faith multiple times. What problems would arise if God's promises were based on human performance? Why does God choose to give promises based on grace?
7. Verse 17 describes God as the one who “raises the dead” and “brings the nonexistent into being.” How does this description help us understand Abraham's faith? Is there a situation in your life right now where you need to trust God in this way?
8. Verses 20-21 say that Abraham, because of his faith, was strengthened and gave glory to God. When we feel proud of our own achievements, how is that different from Abraham's example? How does faith help us shift our focus from ourselves to God?
9. Verses 23-24 say that the phrase “counted as righteous” wasn't written just for Abraham. What does Paul think believers today have in common with Abraham? Do you often base your salvation on your own performance rather than on Christ's work?
10. Verse 25 mentions that Jesus “was delivered for our trespasses and raised for our justification.” How do the cross and the resurrection work together to complete God's salvation? How does this passage make you feel more assured and thankful about your own salvation?