

Monday, 1 June 2015 Romans 4:1-5 [1]

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

A very familiar passage but have we ever stopped to think about the meaning of the statement "Abraham **believed** God?" It was that Abraham obeyed God, completely and explicitly obeyed God. He set out to obey the commandment of God to sacrifice his son, even though that appeared to be in complete negation of God's promise to provide descendants beyond counting and to bless all the nations of the world through his seed. He trusted in God to accomplish His promises even though the path to fulfillment was to be destroyed in Abraham's eyes.. Through his actions, he demonstrated his trust in God. Obedience!

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Tuesday, 2 June 2015 Romans 4:1-5 [2]

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

I worked, from the time I was 12 until 66, always for a wage, sometimes meager and sometimes sumptuous, but always for a wage. The wage was immediate compensation for my labors. And most of the time, I felt that my labor was at least worth the compensation I received.

Now, as a servant of the Most High, my labors can never, ever be worth the compensation I receive. They are totally offered to my King in gratitude for the great gift I have received, to be in His presence for eternity. But I can offer my faith, my trust, my commitment, my obedience as a token of my love for Him. That offering is a " *living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is my spiritual worship*". Romans 12:1

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Wednesday, 3 June 2015 Romans 4:9-13 [1]

Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the

uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. 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.** 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, 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. For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

Interesting point. Abraham's promises were received before he was sealed by the sign of circumcision. Likewise ours are made to us before we are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

But Abraham was not a father until after he acted in faith. And then he began to see the fruit of the promises. So we, acting in faith and trusting in God, believing that Jesus the Christ is the Son of the Living God, seeking to live in accordance with the Word of God, that we truly begin to live in the Kingdom of God. Then the righteousness, peace and joy of the Holy Spirit begin to indwell our very being.

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Thursday, 4 June 2015 Romans 4:9-13 [2]

**He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.**

What's my seal? "And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (cf 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14)

Not once, but three times Paul emphasizes the seal of the Holy Spirit imprinted on our hearts. It is this Spirit that removes *fear and replaces it with power and love and self-control*. 2 Timothy 1:7 The great gift that empowers us to live in righteousness.

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Friday, 5 June 2015 Romans 4:9-13 [3]

**I. For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the**

**righteousness of faith.**

I don't think we can overemphasize this point. My righteousness is a consequence of my faith. Therefore, without faith, there is no righteousness, there is no transformation, there is no life in the Kingdom. Nada!

A sequence of four powerful and important words. **Faith** implies trust. **Trust** implies commitment. **Commitment** implies obedience. **Obedience** leads to the righteousness, peace and joy that is life in the Kingdom of God.

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*Saturday, 6 June 2015 Romans 4:23-24*  
*But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. **It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,***

Who raised Who? The LORD, God the Almighty raised Jesus the Christ from the dead as complete and total proof that the sacrifice of the sinless Lamb was sufficient. Therefore the results of that sacrifice is credited to us who believe, who trust, who commit, who obey.

Hallelujah. Praise the LORD. Maranatha Lord Jesus.  
maranatha

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*Lord's Day, 7 June 2015 Psalm 119:107*

*I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word!*

This issue of "What is a pastor?" is afflicting me today. Lead me in Your Word to see where understanding truly is.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Psalms*



*June 1-7, 2015*

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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