

SAVED BY FAITH
Romans 4:1-25 (NIV)

"Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ⁸Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

Romans 4:7-8 (NIV)

❖ Defining Faith:

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? ²If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about--but not before God.

³What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Romans 4:1-3 (NIV)

1. Faith is TRUST.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

2. Faith is BELIEF.

By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise.

Hebrews 11:11 (NIV)

3. Faith is SURRENDER.

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son... ¹⁹Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

Hebrews 11:17, 19 (NIV)

❖ The Promise of Faith:

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless...

Romans 4:13-14 (NIV)

1. By faith we are DECLARED RIGHTEOUS.

What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Romans 4:3 (NIV)

2. By faith we are CONSIDERED JUSTIFIED.

Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 4:4-5 (NIV)

3. By faith we receive the INHERITANCE of GOD.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

Romans 4:16 (NIV)

❖ Understanding Faith:

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. ³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Hebrews 11:1-3 (NIV)

1. Faith leads us from DEATH to LIFE.

... Abraham, He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

Romans 4:16b-17 (NIV)

2. Faith in the past INCREASES our FAITH in the future.

Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God.

Romans 4:19-20 (NIV)

3. Faith is the DEPOSIT that guarantees our ETERNITY.

(Abraham), being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²²This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." ²³The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Romans 4:21-25 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)