



YOU SEE THAT FAITH
WAS ACTIVE ALONG
WITH HIS WORKS, AND
FAITH WAS COMPLETED
BY HIS WORKS; AND THE
SCRIPTURE WAS FULFILLED
THAT SAYS, "ABRAHAM
BELIEVED GOD, AND IT
WAS COUNTED TO HIM AS
RIGHTEOUSNESS"—
AND HE WAS CALLED
A FRIEND OF GOD.

JAMES 2:22-23

IV

The Faith that Saves

ROMANS 4:18–25

In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.”¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone,²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

READ | ROMANS 4:18–25

THINK ABOUT

In our study of Romans, we have been learning that all of us deserve to be judged and condemned by God because of our innate sin (chapters 1–3). However, in this wonderful portion of Scripture, we learn from Abraham’s example that we are all justified by faith in Christ. “It [justification] will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification” (Romans 4:24–25).

From this passage, we observe beautiful features about our salvation in Christ:

1. It gives us hope (v. 18).
2. Our faith is unwavering (v. 20).
3. True faith gives glory to God (v. 20).
4. True faith trusts God’s promises (v. 21).
5. Salvation is by faith (v. 22).
6. Faith is counted to us as righteousness (vv. 22–23).
7. We are justified by God’s resurrection power, not human effort (vv. 24–25).

APPLY

What wonderful truths about our salvation! Take some time to write down your thoughts about the features listed above. Then, share them with your family and friends. Also, encourage someone else to journal their thoughts regarding the features listed in this rich passage. Talk to someone you know who loves Jesus and will give you biblical direction and truth.

ASK

*Is there an area of your life that you must strengthen in light of these truths?
What should you do to strengthen that area, day to day?*

Who can you disciple regarding these magnificent truths of salvation?

THE BIG IDEA

Justification is consummated through the resurrection of Christ, not human efforts. Paul teaches that our justification comes on the basis of Christ's power and accomplishments of the cross alone. No human effort is involved!

KEY POINTS

Condemnation through Adam is compared to righteousness through Christ (vv. 18–19).

The law and sin are compared to the limitlessness of God's grace (v. 20).

Sin and death are compared to grace and eternal life (v. 21).

DOCTRINE

A theological dictionary defines **sin** as transgression, wrongdoing, transgression of the law of God, or the "missing of the mark."

Imputed sin is the sinful nature that all mankind inherited from Adam.

LIFE APPLICATION

Adam's act of disobedience in the Garden of Eden plunged the whole world into sin.

The law is only a shadow of the perfect to come and was not intended to give salvation.

We become heirs of Abraham ultimately through the Messiah's work on the cross.

DISCUSSION

How do you feel about eternal condemnation, brought by Adam?

If the law is weak and cannot save, why did God call the Jews to follow the law?

Take time to thank God for His grace that results in salvation.

“THE FAITH THAT SAVES”

Romans 4:18-25

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

HYMN

“As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause, who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number.” — JOB 5:8–9

To God Be The Glory

1. To God be the glor - y, great things He has done; So loved He
 2. O per - - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, To ev - ery
 3. Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, And great our

the world that He gave us His Son Who yield - ed His life an a -
 be - lie - ver the pro - mise of God; The vil - est o - ffend - er who
 re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; But pur - er, and high - er, and

tone - ment for sin, And o - pened the life gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be - lieves, That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 great - er will be Our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord,

praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther, through

Je - sus the Son, And give Him the glor - y, great things He has done.

Text: Fanny Crosby, 1875 Tune: William Howard Doane, 1875