

# “Trusting God Against All Odds”

## Romans 4:16-5:1

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**Teaching Aim:** To understand it is God and God alone who gives life to the dead and calls something out of nothing. To realize God is worthy of our trust and our faithfulness to His Word, no matter how difficult our circumstances may appear. To understand it is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone that the righteousness of God is imputed to the believer's account.

### DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

#### Part I: Faced with the impossible, Abraham trusted in God. (Rom. 4:13-22)

1. Did the promise to Abraham and his seed of being “*heir to the world*” come through the law or through faith (**vs. 13**)? Who is this promise ultimately fulfilled in? (See **Gal. 3:16**) How would you define the word “*righteousness*?” (See Dictionary)
2. According to **verse 14**, if salvation comes through perfect obedience to the law, people are in big trouble. How many people will be saved by following the law? (See **Rom. 3:10-12**) What do those who choose the law over grace have to look forward to (**vs. 15**)? (See **Jam. 2:10; John 3:36**)
3. How would you define the word “*sin*?” (See Dictionary) What is the primary difference between the word “*sin*” and “*transgression*?” (See Dictionary) If **Matthew 22:36-40** is “*The Great Commandment*,” what is “*the great transgression*?” (Hint: Reverse the commandment.) Is it necessary that law exist for a transgression (a crossing the line) to occur? Is there a transgression if there is no law (**vs. 15**)? (See **Rom. 5:13-14**)
4. What conclusion did Paul come to in **verse 16**? Who is the promise secure for? If salvation is by grace through faith, whose grace is it? What can we learn about our faith from **Eph. 2:8-9**? Could we count on our salvation if it were dependent upon our good works? (See **Jam. 2:10**) How about our feelings? Can we count on our salvation if it is dependent upon the grace of God and the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross? Why? (See **1 John 5:11-13**)

5. The word “*therefore*” always indicates that a conclusion is coming (**vs. 16**). What conclusion did the Apostle Paul come to in **verse 15**? How about in **verse 16**? Who will receive the benefits of this promise? What title is given to Abraham in **verse 16**?
6. In **verse 17** a quotation from **Gen. 17:4-5** is shared. What is the meaning of the name “*Abram*”? How does this differ from the meaning of Abram’s new name “*Abraham*”? (Hint: See Bible footnotes for **Gen. 17:4-5** or commentary notes.) What can we learn about God’s faithfulness to His promises from this name change?
7. What do you think Paul meant in **verse 17** when he wrote in, “*God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did?*” (See Commentaries) How do you see this concept being fulfilled in the life of Abraham and Sarah? (See **Gen. 16:1-2; 21:1-3; Rom. 4:19**)
8. What can we learn about Abraham’s faith from **verse 18**? Do you find yourself trusting God no matter what you are facing in life? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your trust in God? Have you grown in your faith over the years? If so, what caused you to grow the most?
9. Why were Abraham and Sarah’s bodies considered as good as dead in **verse 19**? Often it is not until we reach the end of ourselves that God does His greatest work in our lives. Why is this so? Can you share an illustration of a time when God did a great work in your own life? How did this work affect you spiritually?
10. If Abraham was 100 years old (**vs. 19**), how old was Sarah? (See **Gen 17:17**) Is it more remarkable that Abraham fathered a child at 100 or that Sarah bore a child and gave birth at the age of 90? Sarah had tried to have a child all of her life but could not. What is “a God thing”? Why can we safely say Sarah’s pregnancy at 90 “*a God thing*”?

11. Did Abraham waiver in his faith wondering if God would fulfill His promise (**vs. 20**)? What happened to Abraham through this experience? How did Abraham bring *“glory to God?”* How does our *“trusting God”* and *“believing in His Word”* bring glory to God today? Would you say that you are bringing glory to God by the way you live your life? Why or why not? What are some positive changes you can make in your life so that others know that you love God and follow Him?

12. What principle can we learn from Abraham in **verse 21** that applies to our own lives today? "Faith and action go hand in hand," how did this principle relate to Abraham and Sarah in their old age? How does this principle relate to Christians today?

13. What resulted from Abraham's faith according to **verse 22**? What is the meaning of "*imputed righteousness*" and why is it so important to every Christian's salvation? (See **2 Cor. 5:21**) Whose righteousness must be imputed to our account?

## **Part II: The imputed righteousness in Jesus Christ and the hope of the resurrection. (Rom. 4:23-25)**

1. Do you think **Genesis 15:6** was written for Abraham alone or for the benefit of everyone who reads the Bible (**vs. 23**)? Why is reading the Bible so important to each of us? (See **Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17**) Do you have a regular routine of spending time in God's Word and praying every day? Why is it important for us to read the Bible every day? Have you ever read through the entire Bible? If not, what is stopping you? Are you willing to commit to reading through the entire Bible starting with the New Testament?

2. According to **verse 24**, who receives this gift of “*imputed righteousness*?” (See **Rom. 3:21-22a**) Do you see the resurrection of Christ as an essential part of the gospel message? Why or why not? (See **Acts 1:22; 4:2, 33; 17:18; 1 Cor. 15:4**) Why do you think the apostles used it so much?

3. What are the words "*delivered up*" referring to in **verse 25**? (See **Rom. 5:8-9; 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:3-4**) Why was it necessary for Jesus to die on the cross for our sins? (See **Gal. 3:10-14**) How do "*our justification*" (*meaning: forgiveness of sin and being "declared righteous"*) and "*the resurrection of Jesus Christ*" work together for our salvation (**vs. 25**)?

### **Part III: The first benefit of "justification by faith" is peace with God. (Rom. 5:1)**

1. Once again the word "*therefore*" leads us to another conclusion. What conclusion did Paul come to in **Romans 5:1**? What eternal benefit does our justification bring (**vs. 1**)? Why do unregenerate men and women desperately need to have peace with God? (See **John 3:36**) Did you consider yourself at war with God before you came to faith in Christ? According to the Bible, were you at enmity with God? (See **Rom. 8:6-8**) Describe how your life has changed since coming to faith in Jesus Christ? What can the true believer know for sure following his or her regeneration? (See **1 John 5:11-13**)
2. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer? By repenting of your sin and receiving Christ, you will receive eternal life and have "*peace with God*" which Jesus so preciously purchased for you through His death on the cross. (**Rom. 5:1**) How much does Jesus love you? His arms are wide open.

### **MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Justification is God declaring a guilty sinner not guilty through faith in Christ; this is an act of God's grace.
- Abraham is "*the father of the faithful*," not only of the believing Jews, but also of every Gentile who believes in Jesus.
- Abraham believed God, even when all seemed impossible from a human perspective.
- Trusting God through what seemed to be impossible strengthened Abraham's faith.
- Trusting God in the difficulties of our lives can strengthen our faith today as well.
- Abraham's belief in God was accounted to him (or credited to him) for righteousness.
- Old Testament and New Testament saints were and are all saved in the same way, by grace through faith.