

Romans 4 Meditation Questions

Answer the following questions during your daily time in God's Word. These questions will help us focus on growing as disciples of Jesus through our study of the Bible:

- A. What did I learn from Jesus? What is He saying to me?
- B. How will I follow Jesus today?
- C. How can I become like Jesus through this study?

Please underline or make every time the following words are used in this chapter: **justified or justification, righteous or righteousness, credited or credit, faith, and believe.**

Romans 4:1-3

Did Abraham have anything to boast about?

¹What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has discovered? ²If Abraham was indeed **justified** by works, he had something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham **believed** God, and it was **credited** to him as **righteousness**."

Meditation Question: Did Abraham have anything to boast about? Why or why not? How did Abraham become righteous before God?

Romans 1:4-8

Is righteousness a free gift from God?

⁴Now the wages of the worker are not **credited** as a gift, but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the one who does not work, but **believes** in Him who **justifies** the ungodly, his **faith** is **credited** as **righteousness**.

Meditation Question: Describe the thinking and expectations of people who work to establish their own righteousness. Describe the thinking and expectations of people who do not work to establish their own righteousness but receive it as a gift by faith.

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6 And David speaks likewise of the blessedness of the man to whom God **credits righteousness** apart from works:

7 "Blessed are they whose lawless acts are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

Meditation Question: How did David describe his experience when God credited him with righteousness? (Verses 7-8 are quoted from Psalm 32:1-2, which is a prayer of David after committing adultery.)

Romans 4:9-12

Is God's promise only for people who are circumcised?

9 Is this blessing only on the circumcised, or also on the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's **faith** was **credited** to him as **righteousness**. **10** In what context was it **credited**? Was it after his circumcision, or before? It was not after, but before.

Meditation Question: Why does Paul teach that both circumcised Jews and uncircumcised Gentiles can be justified and become righteous in God's sight by faith? How was righteousness credited to Abraham?

11 And he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the **righteousness** that he had by **faith** while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who **believe** but are not circumcised, in order that **righteousness** might be **credited** to them. **12** And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised, but who also walk in the footsteps of the **faith** that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Meditation Questions: How is righteousness credited to us? Are we credited with righteousness before or after baptism? What does it mean to "walk in the footsteps of the faith of our father Abraham?"

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Romans 4:13-17

Why was God's promise NOT given to Abraham through the law?

13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world was not given through the law, but through the **righteousness** that comes by **faith**. **14** For if those who live by the law are heirs, **faith** is useless and the promise is worthless, **15** because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law, there is no transgression.

Meditation Question: Why was God's promise NOT given to Abraham through the law? Why would the promise that Abraham and his offspring "be useless and the promise worthless" if it came through the law and not by faith?

16 Therefore, the promise comes by **faith**, so that it may rest on **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. **17** As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the presence of God, in whom he **believed**, the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not yet exist.

Meditation Question: Why was God's promise to Abraham given "by faith?" What does it mean to have "the faith of Abraham?"

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Romans 4:18-22

How did Abraham strengthen his faith?

18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope **believed** and so became the father of many nations, just as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." **19** Without weakening in his **faith**, he acknowledged the decrepitness of his body (since he was about a hundred years old) and the lifelessness of Sarah's womb. **20** Yet he did not waver through **disbelief** in the promise of God, but was strengthened in his **faith** and gave glory to God, **21** being fully persuaded that God was able to do what He had promised. **22** This is why "it was **credited** to him as **righteousness**."

Meditation Question: What was God's promise to Abraham? How did Abraham keep believing God when it was humanly impossible for the promise to be fulfilled?

Romans 4:23-25

How is righteousness "credited" to us?

23 Now the words "it was **credited** to him" were written not only for Abraham, **24** but also for us, to whom **righteousness** will be **credited**—for us who **believe** in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. **25** He was delivered over to death for our trespasses and was raised to life for our **justification**.

Meditation Question: What did you learn from Romans chapter 4 about how righteousness is "credited" to us who believe in Jesus? Explain how believing in the death and resurrection of Christ makes us righteous in God's sight.