



Abraham's Example

Romans 4:1-8 What then shall we say that Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh, has discovered regarding this matter? 2 For if Abraham was declared righteous **by works**, he has something to boast about—but not before God. 3 For what does the scripture say? **“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”** 4 Now to the one who **works**, his pay is **not credited** due to grace but due to obligation. 5 But to the one who **does not work**, but believes in the one who declares the ungodly righteous, his faith is **credited** as righteousness. 6 So even David himself speaks regarding the blessedness of the man to whom God **credits** righteousness **apart from works**: 7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the one against whom the Lord will **never count sin.**”

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Did Abraham Work for Salvation?

Romans 4:1-2 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2 For **if Abraham was justified by works**, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

- **“forefather according to the flesh”** = Abraham was physical progenitor of the Jewish race (father of all who believe vs.11)
- **“if Abraham was justified by works...”** = a common Jewish view: Jubilees 23:10 **“Abraham was perfect in all his deeds** with the Lord, and well-pleasing in righteousness all the days of his life.”

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God's Righteousness Is Given to Abraham

Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

- "believed God"
 1. Personal: Abraham "believed in Yahweh."
 2. Propositional: Abraham believed God would provide the promised seed.
- "it was credited to him" = logizomai – commercial term used for crediting accounts (Imputed righteousness).

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God Justifies the Ungodly

Romans 4:4-5 Now to the one who works, his pay is not credited due to grace but due to obligation. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in the one who declares the ungodly righteous, his faith is credited as righteousness.

- **Contrast: Grace vs. Obligation:** Fundamental to Paul's theology is the fact that God is not obligated to His creatures!
- **God declares the ungodly righteous?**
 1. Faith is credited (imputed) as righteousness
 2. This necessitates: a foreign atonement and righteousness

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The Great Transaction

Romans 4:6-8 NET So even David himself speaks regarding the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the one against whom the Lord will never count sin."

- **The great transaction:**
 1. We get what we don't deserve: Christ's righteousness
 2. We don't get what we do deserve: God's wrath

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Applications

1. We must know that Abraham's works did not save him, but they did corroborate the fact that he had saving faith.
2. We must understand that Abraham believed in the same promises we believe in today!
3. We must know that God saves not by works, but by the imputation of Christ's work to our account.

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1. Abraham's Faith and Works

Romans 4:2-3 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

James 2:21-24 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 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. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

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2. Abraham Believed in Our Promises, Too!

John 8:56-58 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." 57 So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

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3. God Saves By Imputation Apart From Works

First Adam

- 1. Sin imputed to our account
- 2. We live it out!

Second Adam (Christ)

- 1. Righteousness imputed
- 2. We live it out!

Romans 5:19 For as through the one man's disobedience **the many were made sinners**, even so through the obedience of the One **the many will be made righteous**.

Which Adam is your representative?
