



Part 5: What Do You Really Want From Me?

You may think, "I try my best, but it never seems enough. Sometimes I feel so bad, especially when I look at great 'saints' and compare myself to them!" Check out Romans 4!

How can I be accepted by God?

1. Not by _____ . (Romans 4:1-8)

"If Abraham was justified by works he had something to boast about... What does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness." v. 2, 3

2. Not by _____ . (4:9-12)

"...Abraham's faith is credited to him as righteousness. Was it after he was circumcised, or before? ...It was not after, but before!" v. 10

3. Not by _____ . (4:13-15)

"It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise..." v. 13

4. Just by _____ . (4:5, 14)

"...to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness." v. 5

How is this possible?

1. Because of God's _____ . (4:16)

"...the promise comes by faith so that it may be by grace and that it may be guaranteed..."

2. Because of God's _____ . (4:17)

"...the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that were not as they were."

What kind of faith will get me through life? Like Abraham, faith that's...

1. Based on a _____ . (4:17)

"He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed..."

2. Built on the _____ . (4:18)

"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed... just as it had been said to him..."

3. Beyond the _____ . (4:19)

"Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead..."

4. Boosted by _____ . (4:20,21)

"(He) ...was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."

"The words 'it was credited to him' were written not for him alone, but also for **us**, to whom God will credit righteousness --for **us** who believe in him who raised Jesus **our** Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for **our** sins and was raised to life for **our** justification." Rom. 4:22-25

The bottom line: A right relationship with God is either:

a _____ to be _____ ...or
a _____ to be _____

The result:

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained **access** by faith into this grace in which we now stand." Rom. 5:1, 2

The reason:

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates **his own love for us** in this: While we were still sinners, **Christ died for us!**" Rom. 5:6-8

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to "take it home": Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought-provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

This week's memory verses: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 5:1

Monday

Read back over Romans 4 and your notes from last weekend. Write down a simple truth that stands out to you from the text and from the sermon.

How do you sometimes try to earn, or be worthy of, God's grace?

Why do you think we try to earn our way into God's favor, even if we've been raised with all of these Scriptures about God's grace?

Write down one thing you learned from last weekend and how you will apply it to your life:

Thank God for His grace toward you! Ask Him to help you grow in an appreciation of it this week as you study Romans 4!

Tuesday

Read Romans 4:6-8. In this passage, Paul quotes David, who wrote one thousand years before Paul about the happiness of the person forgiven by sin.

Sometimes I see Christians who understand the doctrine of grace, yet do not seem to be experiencing the bliss described by David in these verses. Why do you think that is?

Turn to the Psalm quoted here in Romans 4-- Psalm 32. Read it slowly, meditating on the concept of forgiveness. In verses 3 and 4, David describes the agony of living in unconfessed sin. Can you relate to this?

According to verse 5, what is the key to receiving this sense of God's forgiveness?

What is the warning in verse 9 about?

How does verse 10 confirm what Paul says in Romans 4?

Thank God today that His forgiveness comes to those who simply "trust in Him"! If there is unconfessed sin in your heart, bring it to God today, and revel in His grace to you!

Wednesday

Read Romans 4:16-17. Verse 16 says that salvation must be by grace "so that it may be guaranteed." How would it not be guaranteed if it were by works?

Why would God want to guarantee our salvation for us? What does this tell you about God's feelings for you?

How is this different from the way we often perceive salvation?

For more info on the "guarantee", read Ephesians 1:11-14. According to these verses, what is guaranteed?

Give thanks to God today for the guarantee that is yours through Christ! If you need to settle the issue, do so today! Simply pray, 'Lord, I receive your atonement for me. I believe Jesus is who He says He is: The Son of God, who died on the cross for me, and rose again. I want to live for Him! Thank you for your forgiveness and new life!'

Thursday

Reread Romans 4:18-25. I love how Paul seems to anticipate that his readers will think, "Well, that's fine for Abraham, but I know how sinful I have been!" Look at verses 22-25, and notice how many times he uses the personal pronoun about you. Is it easy or hard for you to believe that God totally forgives you, based only on faith? Why or why not?

Praise God today for His mercies to you! Pray through verses 22-25 as a "thank you" prayer to God, claiming these truths as your own!

Friday

Read Romans 5:1-11. Paraphrase what it means to be "justified through faith" (vs. 1):

What benefits are yours as a result? (vs. 1-5)

What words describe what you once were in God's eyes (vs. 6, 8, 10)?

How does the death of Christ change all this?

How does this make you feel?

Spend some time just praising God today for what He has done for you!!

Saturday

Today, polish the memory verse at the top of the previous page, and read Romans 5 in preparation for the weekend services. Thank God for His love and mercy for you. Ask Him to prepare your heart for worship and teaching this weekend. Pray for services that impact lives!