



Summer Quarter 2021 Theme:
 Confident Hope
 Unit II. Faith and Salvation

Lesson Titles:
Seeking Assurance
 (Faith Pathway Bible Studies)
The Faith of Abraham
 (Townsend Press Sunday School
 Commentary)

LESSON 7—July 18, 2021

Devotional Reading:
 Genesis 15:1-6

Background Scripture:
 Romans 4

Print Passage:
 Romans 4:1-12

Key Verse(s):

Abraham believed God, and it was counted
 unto him for righteousness.

(Romans 4:3b, KJV)

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“Abraham believed God, and it was credited
 to him as righteousness.”

(Romans 4:3b, NIV)

► Questions to Consider:

1. What does Paul say about faith versus works?
2. Why did Paul use Abraham and David as examples in this week's lesson?
3. What did Paul say about circumcision without faith?

► Lesson Context:

- This week's lesson is set within the context of Paul's discussion about **faith** versus works (see Romans 3:27–4:25).
- Paul was writing to Jewish Christians in Rome about righteousness by faith in the life of Abraham.
- In this lesson, Paul sets forth a clear presentation of faith as the path to righteousness and the foundation of God's new, everlasting covenant with His people.

► Lesson Aims:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:

- Study the difference between faith and works as manifested in the life of Abraham.
- Reflect on the knowledge and wisdom of Paul as seen in his understanding of the Old Testament.
- Identify ways in which you rely on your faith for a relationship with God.

► Lesson Outlines/Key Points:

I. **Father** of the Faith (Romans 4:1-3)

Key Point 1: Paul examines the role of faith versus works in the life of Abraham.

Key Point 2: Abraham **believed** God.

II. **Facts** of the Faith (Romans 4:4-8)

Key Point 1: We are justified by our faith and not our works.

Key Point 2: God bestows His righteousness upon those who trust Him.

III. **Footsteps** of the Faith (Romans 4:9-12)

Key Point 1: It was Abraham's **faith**, not circumcision that made him eligible to receive the blessing of righteousness.

Key Point 2: The ritual of circumcision, without faith, does not make anyone righteous.

► **Lesson Summary:**

- Without a circumcised heart or without a soul that completely relies on God, it is impossible to please God or to achieve righteousness before Him.
- Jesus Christ freely paid the debt we owed for sin – a debt we could not pay.
- Salvation and eternal life are not blessings we can earn; rather, they are gifts from God.

What Do You Think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

1. What rituals and requirements do we impose on others that might hinder them from coming to salvation or growing deeper in Christian discipleship?

2. Why is it beneficial that God does not justify believers as righteous based on spiritual knowledge, length of church membership, longevity of belief, or other such variables?

As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
