

A Gospel Worldview – Lesson 4

Do You Believe?

Romans 4

If a person does not Obey God, can they still have Faith in God?

Romans 4:1-8 - Faith Takes God at His Word

Why did Paul use Abraham as his illustration of faith?

1. The Jews believed that Abraham was the founder of their race. (Why did God choose Abraham?)
2. Paul wanted to show that what made a man right with God was the result of faith and not his work. And, that has always been a part of the Jewish religion.
3. He wanted to use an example that they would help them understand. And all Jews knew the story of Abraham.

Leap of Faith – Abraham's life illustrates taking a leap of faith and following God in many different situations.

What are some leap of faith experiences for you when it comes to following God?

Main Point - Paul attempted to argue against the main theme of a Jew... That a man must earn God's favor. Instead, Abraham believed in the promise that God gave him.

Romans 4:9-12 - The Father of All Who Believe

The reality – You were not considered a Jew unless you were circumcised. Regardless of your parents. (Not allowed to eat the Passover meal if you are not circumcised.)

The objection - The Jew would argue that even if Abraham was made righteous by faith, he was still circumcised. Therefore, all believers should be circumcised.

Paul's Response – Abraham accepted God's call in his life and 14 years later was circumcised. Therefore, circumcision was not the gateway for being in a right relationship with God. Instead it was a sign and a seal of that right relationship.

Therefore,

- Father of those who have Faith in God, not just the circumcised.
- A Jew may have been circumcised but is not a descendant of Abraham because he may not have faith in God. (Trust)

Romans 4:13-17 – Choosing Between Faith or Law

1. God's Promise vs God's Law - A promise to love God's children regardless of what they do vs the law which can diagnose the problem but does not provide a cure.
2. Faith vs. Transgressions – Faith is the trust we have in God's love for us vs. transgressions which is the result of the law and requires punishment.
3. Grace vs. Wrath – A gift of grace is unearned and undeserved while wrath is the justice that God demands for our transgressions.

So, which path do you want to seek? The way of Faith and being made right with God or a way of doing it on your own and following the law. (following your own sense of right and wrong)

Romans 4:18-25 - Believing in the God of the Impossible

Jewish Belief – “What is written of Abraham is also written of his children.” God's promise to Abraham will be extended to his children.

If you believe in God, you believe that he can make the impossible possible.