

Reckoned for Righteousness

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- Gal. 3:6 - “Just as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”
- Rom. 4:21-22 - “And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness.”
- Gen. 15:6 - “And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”

How Does God Reckon Righteousness?

- Is it an arbitrary process that depends on a whim?
- Are there any secret criteria that we need to look for?
- Has God fully revealed to us how He accounts or imputes righteousness to men?

Abraham's Faith Was Based On God's Revelation

- God revealed Himself to Abraham
 - In Ur of the Chaldees - Acts 7:2-4; Gen. 15:7
 - At Haran of Mesopotamia - Gen. 12:1-4
 - At Shechem in Canaan - Gen. 12:6-7
 - After Lot moved to Sodom - Gen. 13:14-17
 - Frequently - Gen. 15:1-17, 17:1-27, 18:1-33, 22:1-19
- God made His will clear to Abraham; it was then up to Abraham to respond to what God had revealed about Himself

Abraham's Faith Was Based On God's Revelation

- Our faith must be based on what God revealed about Himself and His will
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - John 20:30-31 - “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Abraham's Faith Was Obedient To God's Will

- By faith, Abraham obeyed God
 - Heb. 11:8-10, 17 - “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God... 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.”
 - Abraham's faith was not a dead faith, but a dynamic faith - James 2:20-26

Abraham's Faith Was Obedient To God's Will

- The gospel calls for obedience to the faith
 - Rom. 1:5 - “Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name”
 - Rom. 16:25-26 - “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began, but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith.”

Abraham's Faith Was Obedient To God's Will

- We obey the doctrine of Christ from the heart
 - Rom. 6:17 - “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”
 - Gal. 5:6 - “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”

Abraham's Faith Was Built Of Trust

- Abraham was not justified because of his works
 - Rom. 4:1-3 - “What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Abraham's Faith Was Built Of Trust

- Though he had a faith that works, he did not trust in his works
 - Rom. 4:5-8 - “But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”

Abraham's Faith Was Built Of Trust

- We must trust in God, not our works
- Faith is a work
 - John 6:28-29 - “Then they said to Him, What shall we do, that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”
- But when all is done, we must not put our trust in our obedience, as though we somehow earned our salvation
 - Luke 17:10 - “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do'”

Abraham's Faith Was A Growing Faith

- Abraham grew in faith, even though there were times when his faith was weak
 - He had Sarah tell a half-truth to save his life - Gen. 12:11-20, 20:1-18
 - He questioned God when he and Sarah did not have children - Gen. 15:2-3
 - He showed weak faith with Hagar - Gen. 16:1-4
 - He offered an alternative to God when he thought it would be impossible for Sarah to have children - Gen. 17:17-18

Abraham's Faith Was A Growing Faith

- But God was patient with Abraham while his faith grew
 - He had faith, even against hope, and received a son - Rom. 4:18-22
 - He had faith that God could raise Isaac from the dead, and so was willing to offer him as commanded - Heb. 11:17-19
 - The increasing faith of Abraham led to him be called a friend of God - James 2:23

Abraham's Faith Was A Growing Faith

- We must grow in faith
- As the apostles of Christ
 - Matt. 8:25-26 - “Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us! We are perishing! But He said to them, Why are you fearful, O you of little faith? Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.”
 - Matt. 14:31 - “And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Abraham's Faith Was A Growing Faith

- We must grow in faith
- Into bold men
 - Acts 4:13 - “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”

Abraham's Faith Was A Growing Faith

- Like the Thessalonians
 - 2Thes. 1:3 - “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other”
 - Rom. 4:12 - “and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.”

Faith Is God's Choice In Reckoning Man's Righteousness

- Justification is by God
 - Offered freely by His grace - Rom. 3:24-25
 - Through redemption in Jesus blood - Eph. 1:6-7; 1Peter 1:18-19
 - Jesus offered as a propitiation or sacrifice to appease God's wrath for sin - 1John 2:2, 4:10
 - Demonstrating God's righteousness - Rom. 3:25-26
 - This justification is only for the one who has faith in Jesus - Rom. 3:26

Faith Is God's Choice In Reckoning Man's Righteousness

- Eliminates potential for boasting by man
 - Excluded by the law of faith - Rom. 3:27-30
 - One cannot boast about the works they do - Luke 17:10
 - The fact that faith is required implies that works alone cannot save

Faith Is God's Choice In Reckoning Man's Righteousness

- Establishing the principle of law - Rom. 3:31
 - Justification by faith doesn't make obedience obsolete - Heb. 5:9
 - Whether it was the Law of Moses under the Old Covenant, or the Will of Christ under the New Covenant, God calls for obedience by faith - Matt. 28:20; Titus 2:11-12