

Romans 4:1-5

“What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather 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 counted to him as righteousness.’ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith ...”

Romans 4:5-10

“is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ‘Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.’ Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it ...”

Romans 4:10-12

“counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but ...”

Romans 4:12-16

“who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith ...”

Romans 4:16-18

“in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the ...”

Romans 4:18-23

“father of many nations, as he had been told, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised ...”

Romans 4:23-25

“That is why his faith was ‘counted to him as righteousness.’ But the words ‘it was counted to him’ were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

(ESV)

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Dead to Sin. Alive in Christ.

You Can't Do It

ROMANS 4:1-25



Famous slogans

THE BOOK OF
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Dead to Sin. Alive in Christ.

- **The Ultimate Driving Machine**

Famous slogans

- The Ultimate Driving Machine
- **What's In Your Wallet?**

Famous slogans

- The Ultimate Driving Machine
- What's In Your Wallet?
- **Snap, Crackle, Pop**

Famous sl ogans

- The Ultimate Driving Machine
- What's In Your Wallet?
- Snap, Crackle, Pop
- **Finger-Licking Good**

Famous slogans

- The Ultimate Driving Machine
- What's In Your Wallet?
- Snap, Crackle, Pop
- Finger-Licking Good
- **Can You Hear Me Now?**

Famous slogans

- The Ultimate Driving Machine
- What's In Your Wallet?
- Snap, Crackle, Pop
- Finger-Licking Good
- Can You Hear Me Now?
- **Have It Your Way**

Famous sl o gans

- The Ultimate Driving Machine
- What's In Your Wallet?
- Snap, Crackle, Pop
- Finger-Licking Good
- Can You Hear Me Now?
- Have It Your Way
- **Reach, Teach, Equip, & Send**

Famous slogans

- The Ultimate Driving Machine
- What's In Your Wallet?
- Snap, Crackle, Pop
- Finger-Licking Good
- Can You Hear Me Now?
- Have It Your Way
- Reach, Teach, Equip, & Send
- **Just Do It**

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You Can't Do It

ROMANS 4:1-25



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Abraham Couldn't Do it!

“What then shall we say was gained by Abraham? “For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.” (4:1-2)



Isaiah 51:1-2

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father ... for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.”

(ESV)

Matthew 1:1

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” (ESV)

Luke 1:46-48, 54-55

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant ... He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Prominent O.T. Figures

- Joseph
- **Moses**
- **David**
- **Elijah**
- Ezekiel
- **Daniel**
- Ezra
- Nehemiah

Romans 4:1-2

“Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What were his experiences concerning this question of being saved by faith? Was it because of his good deeds that God accepted him? If so, he would have had something to boast about.”

(NLT)

Romans 4:2-3

*“From God’s point of view **Abraham had no basis at all for pride.** For the Scriptures tell us, ‘Abraham believed God, so God declared him to be righteous.’”*

(NLT)

Abraham's High Light Real

- The call of Abraham (Gen 12)
- The promise to Abraham (Gen 18)
- The child of Abraham (Gen 21)
- The testing of Abraham (Gen 22)

Romans 4:3-5

*“For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was **counted** to him as righteousness.’
Now to the one who works, his **wages** are not counted as a **gift** but as his **due**. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.” (ESV)*

Chapter Overview

- Abraham was not justified by works (4:1-8)
- Abraham was not justified by circumcision (4:9-12)
- Abraham was not justified by the law (4:13-15)
- Abraham was justified because God gave him the gift of justification (4:16-25)

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David Couldn't Do it!

*“David also speaks of the blessing of
the one to whom God counts
righteousness apart from works” (4:6)*



Romans 4:7-8 (cf. Psalm 32:1-2)

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” (ESV)

“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity.” (Psalm 32:1-2, ESV)

Hebrew Words for “Sin”

- **Transgression** (*peshach*)—revolt, rebellion
- **Sin** (*chattah*)—failure, to fall short, to over-step one’s bounds
- **Iniquity** (*‘awon*)—crooked, wrong, corrupt, twisted

Hebrew Words for “Forgiveness”

- **Forgiveness** (*nasah*)—to lift off or carry
- **Covered** (*hasab*)—expiate, remove, cover
- **Not Counted** (*kesah*)—to not impute, to not reckon, to not count against

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Only God Can Do it!

*“God was able to do what he had
promised” (4:21)*



Isaiah 1:18

*“‘Come now, let us reason together,’ says the LORD:
‘though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as
white as snow; though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.’”*

(ESV)

2 Corinthians 5:21

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

(ESV)

Romans 4:20-25

“No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was ‘counted to him as righteousness.’ But the words ‘it was counted to him’ were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

(ESV)

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You Can't Do it!

WILL YOU LET GOD HELP?



Next Steps

- I am thankful that God has the power to keep his promises.
- I will trust in the righteousness provided for me in Jesus instead of falling into the trap of trying to earn it myself.
- I am ready to trust in Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and experience the righteousness only God can provide.