



The Fairview Church

Faith Transcends Righteousness

Romans 4

Speaker: Pastor Ric

06_02-27 TLC Lesson Romans 4.pub

Pastor's Thought: Many of us have been taught since an early age that if we want to do well in this life we must work hard. However, if you apply this technique to your spiritual life it will not work. Our spiritual journey, unlike our physical one, is about faith not work. Sometimes we believe that if we just keep on working we will make it, but nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, the opposite is true; we are saved by faith alone not works. Spiritually, faith is all you need. As we read in Romans chapter four, even Abraham's wasn't justified by what he did. God accounted or credited righteousness to him on account of his faith. Faith transcends righteousness. While King David was a man after God's own heart, he was also a murderer and an adulterer. David's life was full of sin, yet God also counted David righteous. God did not do this because of the way David lived his life, but because of his faith. Our best deeds, our noblest ambitions, are as filthy rags to God's righteousness. It is not thorough attempting to be righteous, or believing we are righteous when we are not, that we are saved; it is by faith in God that we are accreted with His righteousness. No matter how good our life is (like Abraham's) or how many grievous and detestable sins we have committed (as David did), we can never work hard enough to attain righteousness. Nothing compares to God. God does not absorb our goodness and hide our badness, he offers us His forgiveness and His righteousness. God loves and forgives those who believe in Him. In life, people sometimes bring up the sins of our past and hold them against us, but God never brings up our history once we have been forgiven. God speaks as directly to us as he did to Abraham and David. We, as they did, have a choice. We can believe in the Word of God and have faith for what He promises us, or we can trust in the reality of what we see around us. We must not walk away from what God has promised us, for this is the path of faith. It is through our faith that we are counted as righteous and His promises are fulfilled in our lives. May we always have faith.

Q: What are some of the ways we have tried to work at increasing our faith in the past?

Romans 4:1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? **2** If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. **3** What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." **4** Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. **5** However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness

Romans 4:6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: **7** "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. **8** Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

Romans 4:18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed ... **19** Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. **20** Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. **22** This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." **23** The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, **24** but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. **25** He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Q: In what ways is Faith inherently different from work?

Q: Why do we believe that we can work to increase our faith?

Q: What was David guilty of?

Q: Does the Lord ever hold our past over us? Why or why not?

Q: How do you believe in God's promise for you when the reality around you says it wont happen?

Q: Why is believing in what God says to us the faith that is accredited to us as righteousness?

Q: What is the role of faith in our lives?