

Aug 01, 2021



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**Lesson Leaders:**

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Faith is the ability to see God in the dark

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**

Be still, my soul—the Lord is on thy side!  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to thy God to order and provide—  
In every change He faithful will remain  
—von Schlegel

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together  
(Gen 22:8 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Jan 08, 2000)*

**Series: Confident Hope**

**UNIT 1: Faith and Salvation**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Peace with God  
(Rom 5:1-11)**

## Faith of Abraham Rom 4:1-12

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Abraham's faith resulted in a righteousness that was credited to him. This is known as the theological idea of "imputed righteousness." Jesus often highlighted the impossibility of attaining righteousness through human effort. In Matthew 5:20, He told His listeners that their righteousness had to surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees, who had devoted their lives to keeping the law. And so, the only way for someone to be wholly righteous in the eyes of God was for the Lord to impart, infuse, or impute Christ's righteousness through that person's faith in Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. In order for righteousness to be imputed to the follower of Christ, the unrighteousness, present in the heart of every human being, needs to first be forgiven by God. In this regard, forgiveness is always a necessary precursor to authentic reconciliation. King David often highlights this soul-freeing idea in his psalms, as he experiences the cleansing forgiveness of God, especially after owning up to his own willful disobedience, which often had dire consequences both for himself and for others. Though David showed great respect for God's law, the king knew that simply keeping the law could not earn his salvation.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Abraham and Righteousness** - How does a Christian stand perfect and right before an almighty, holy, perfect God? We will all have a face to face meeting with God at some point. Should we present Him a list noting all our good, earthly deeds? Is that what Abraham did? Scripture said the patriarch was declared righteous by his faith, not by his good deeds. Abraham stands righteous in God's presence right now not because of all the good he performed in life. He's in good standing because God "credited [it] to him" (Rom. 4:3). "Credited" is a banking term, meaning to put to one's account. When a man works, he earns a salary. Money is placed in his account. But Abraham applied no works toward his salvation; he simply trusted God, and the Father attributed salvation to him because of his faith.

**Saved by Grace through Faith** - Whether Old or New Testament believers, both groups were saved by grace through faith. David is another excellent example like Abraham. Although a great leader and king, he committed murder and adultery. David did not experience God's goodness and favor because of his clean living. His salvation was freely given by God, not earned. As David said, and as Paul then quoted, "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit" (Ps. 32:1-2). Once God forgives a person's sins, that offense is no longer held against the individual. David speaks of the blessedness centered on what God places upon us, not on what we do for God. God declared Abraham is in right standing before Abraham was circumcised. Therefore, his righteousness wasn't based on circumcision, but faith. If we are counted righteous by God because of faith, not because of circumcision (or any other ritual), then the blessedness mentioned in Psalm 32 and Romans 4 can be given to the uncircumcised Gentiles by faith.

**Good News for Gentiles** - Therefore, no one can say (as some did in Paul's day) that Gentiles must be circumcised before God can declare them righteous. Paul emphasized that circumcision of the heart, an inward change, is what matters to God. In Christ, because of His sacrifice, all believers are declared righteous. Like Abraham, even Gentiles can stand clean and upright before God.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Abraham's Faith through Belief (Rom 4:1-3)**

#### *Belief that leads to justification (1-2)*

- Belief in the righteousness of God (Rom 3:21-22)
- Belief in the justification through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:11)
- Belief and faith in Jesus Christ (Gal 2:16)
- Belief that leads to living by faith (Gal 3:11)
- Belief that leads to justification by faith (Gal 3:24)
- Belief and works working together (James 2:24)

#### *Belief that leads to righteousness (3)*

- A righteousness that brings eternal life (Rom 5:21)
- A righteousness that we have in Jesus (1 Cor 1:30)
- A righteousness that God made through Jesus (2 Cor 5:21)
- A righteousness that we have faith and hope in (Gal 5:5)
- A righteousness that comes from God through faith (Phil 3:9)

### **Abraham's Faith through Imputed Righteousness (Rom 4:4-8)**

#### *Righteousness through God's grace (4-5)*

- A righteous grace that provides sufficiency (2 Cor 12:9)
- A righteous grace through God's will and pleasure (Eph 1:5-6)
- A righteous grace through God's mercy (1 Tim 1:13-14)
- A righteous grace through justification (Titus 3:3-7)
- A righteous grace that results in blessing after blessing (John 1:16)

#### *Righteousness through God's imputation (6)*

- An imputation through being in Christ Jesus (1 Cor 1:30)
- An imputation through Jesus who bore our sin for us (2 Cor 5:21)
- An imputation that comes from God by faith (Phil 3:9)
- An imputation through the obedience of Jesus (Rom 5:19)

#### *Righteousness through God's forgiveness (7-8)*

- A righteous forgiveness because God blots out our transgressions (Isa 43:25)
- A righteous forgiveness because God is faithful to forgive (1 John 1:9)
- A righteous forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice (Heb 10:14)
- A righteous forgiveness because God is able to save completely (Heb 7:25)
- A righteous forgiveness because Jesus was sacrificed once for all (Heb 9:28)

### **Abraham Father of the Faithful (Rom 4:9-12)**

#### *Faithfulness not limited to the Jews (9-10)*

- Intended for all because God wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)
- Intended for all because God wants all men to be saved (1 Tim 2:1-4)
- Intended for all because Jesus came to save the lost (Luke 19:10)
- Intended for all because Jesus was sacrificed to justify all men (Rom 5:18)
- Intended for all because God's grace brings salvation before all men (Titus 2:11)

#### *Faithfulness of the followers of God (11-12)*

- Followers of God will have the light of life (John 8:12)
- Followers of God will inherit eternal life (Matt 19:29)
- Followers of God will be blessed (Luke 6:22)
- Followers of God will have the Spirit of God rest upon them (1 Peter 4:14)
- Followers of God have indescribable glory awaiting them (1 Cor 2:9)