

Made Right By Faith: God's Promise Through Abraham

God's Promise

*"Faith is reckoned as righteousness."
(Romans 4:5 NVI)*

My Promise

I will rest in the assurance of salvation.

OPENING

Some view final judgment through the lens of a set of divine scales. At the end of our lives as we stand before God, he will take all of our good deeds and place them on one side of the scale. On the other side will be all of our bad deeds. Hopefully, our good deeds will "pay off" or balance our bad ones. Every prayer is a check written, and each good deed is a payment made. If we can do one good act for every bad act, then won't our account balance out in the end? If we can counter our cussing with compliments, our lusts with loyalties, our complaints with contributions, and our vices with victories, then won't our account be justified? Thankfully, the Bible tells a completely different story than a divine set of scales. The Bible points toward salvation in one thing and one thing only. When God brings everything to the table – including his own Son, we bring only one thing: faith. This is true today just as it was true thousands of years ago in the life of a man named Abram.

OF WHAT GOOD IS HUMAN HOPE?

Romans 4:1-2 ...*“What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God.*

Saint Paul reminds us of a man who had an unshakable faith in a God whom he had begun to know. Humanly speaking, His trust could have been in his personal experience. For example, the Bible says that Abraham was a rich man. He was surrounded by a good family. He had property and a comfortable life. Still, he decided to have another kind of trust. He wanted God to approve of him and not his human strength.

Our question should be, if we are going to walk in God’s Kairos and in His unshakable promises, then do we want to trust in our human strength? In our wisdom? In our money? Human hope is treacherous and we run the risk of being deceived.

Three deceptions of human hope:

- 1. – It is inconsistent** – Human hope lacks complete knowledge. That causes it to be possible that our decisions be made with bad information or given the circumstances. Be careful!
- 2. – It is temporal** - What happens at the moment create a false confidence. It could be that the passing things of the moment be influenced by people. For example: Abraham had to consider his actual circumstances in the light of the promise of God.
- 3. – It is bound to sin** – Human nature is stained by sin. Every decision that we take will be impacted by this invisible and intangible element that affects our decisions whether we want them to or not. Would you be willing to allow this to be your

motive for hope? Imagine the danger that you would run in making plans and caring for your family. It is a great risk. The conclusion of human hope does not come to be the basis of our trust. Look at how terrible is the conclusion according to Paul, *“Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.”* (verse 4) Imagine how instead of winning we are losing and we are being indebted more with God.

It is not a good deal. Sadly, the greatest debt is the eternal debt we have with God. We are victims of sin...

OF WHAT GOOD IS ETERNAL HOPE?

Romans 4:3 - *“What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

It is wonderful to know that faith in God is better than faith in human nature. Abraham is the hero of faith not because he was good, or rich, or of influence, but because he decided to leave it all in order to believe in God.

Three benefits of the hope in God:

- 1. – Counted as righteousness** – The word righteousness is something that is very powerful. It matters not what level of our personal life we find ourselves in, without the righteousness of God, we are lost, broken, and condemned for all of eternity. The temporal is going to pass but the eternal will last, and the righteousness of God will last. We do not owe God anything else! That righteousness makes us inheritors of great blessings and promises. Look at what the word says, *“Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”* (verse 4-5) Allow God to add righteousness to

your life and you will see how in your heavenly account, God adds blessing.

2. – It impacts the next generations – The fact that Abraham was daring, can bring joy to others. It is the difference between trusting in human hope and eternal hope. Human hope only influences an individual and at the most only a few. However, when Abraham believed, he unleashed for all of us, eternal blessings. We who speak of the generation 2050, should take advantage of the eternal hope, because the promise is for thousands of generations according to the Bible. Look at what Paul says, *“So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.”* (verse 11)

THE RESULTS: AN UNSHAKABLE BLESSED HOPE

What should be do? Sowers of faith! Abraham was the first sower of faith. His hope brought to all of the world a hope that pointed to a better hope for the world, Jesus Christ!

“Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.” (verse 7-8)

Abraham believed in Jesus; as simple as that. That is why Paul could congratulate Abraham for his faith. Abraham put his faith in Jesus Christ as a first seed so that all of us could discover the secret of what it is to have a true faith. We do not have to “work” for our salvation. Our works are not based on human hope. Today we can decide on either human hope or eternal hope. Look at what the passage says. *“Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trust God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”* (verses 4-5)

Do you know who justifies the wicked? Jesus...The same one who justified Abraham without knowing in life. He knew Him by faith. That is why the Bible congratulates him in the hall of faith – In him the unshakable hope is fulfilled. Look at what it says.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11:8-10