LIFE 425 church

ROMANS: THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

Week 8 — Faith That Receives the Promise

Romans 4:1–25

Big Idea: God counts us righteous through faith in Him, not through works we perform.

1. Righteousness Is a Gift — Romans 4:1–8

- Abraham believed God, and his faith was counted as righteousness.
- Justification isn't a paycheck God owes us. It's a gift of grace.
- Faith isn't another achievement. It's depending on Jesus and receiving what He has done.
- Because every Christian stands on grace, there's no room for pride or self-righteousness.

Reflect: When I think about why God should accept me, do I point first to what I've done or to what Jesus has done?

2. Religious Practices Cannot Replace Faith — Romans 4:9–12

- Abraham was counted righteous before he was circumcised.
- Circumcision was a sign of the relationship; it didn't earn the relationship.
- Baptism, church attendance, communion, serving, and giving matter—but none can save us.
- Religious heritage can't do our trusting for us, and lacking that heritage doesn't keep us from Jesus.

Reflect: Am I depending on Jesus Himself or on my spiritual routines and background?

3. Grace Makes the Promise Dependable — Romans 4:13–17

- God's promise rests on faith so that it rests on grace.
- If acceptance depended on flawless performance, we would never know where we stood.
- Grace ends the bargaining. We obey because we've received mercy, not to earn it.
- God gives life to the dead and does what we cannot do for ourselves.

Reflect: Where am I still trying to bargain with God or prove myself to Him?

4. Faith Faces Reality and Trusts God — Romans 4:18–25

- Abraham faced the facts while trusting the God who had spoken.

- Faith doesn't require us to deny pain, loss, uncertainty, or weakness.
- The strength of faith is found in its object: the faithful and powerful God.
- Faith trusts what God has actually promised; it doesn't turn our wishes into His obligations.
- Our hope rests in Jesus, delivered for our sins and raised for our justification.

Reflect: What hard reality do I need to face honestly while trusting God?

My Response This Week

- When I try to earn God's acceptance, I will remember what Christ has already done for me.
- When I recognize sin, I will confess it honestly and take the next obedient step.
- When fear speaks loudly, I will return to the promise of life in the risen Jesus.

Prayer: God, I cannot make myself righteous. Thank You that Jesus died for my sins and rose again. Help me depend on Him, obey from gratitude, and trust You in every circumstance. Amen.