

THE BOOK OF ROMANS – CHAPTER 4
GOOD NEWS CHURCH - SUNDAY 10/11/26
Our Precious Faith!

- Welcome to Good News Church, your friend Ray Souza here. I hope you are enjoying this Series on the Book of Romans. We are now passed the bad news of Chapter 1, 2 and 1/2 of Chapter 3, to some Good News in Chapter 4.
- I'm so lucky that Drue and Dan did the hard part, the bad news, but they did it in an awesome way! Their messages were so profitable! If you haven't had a chance to listen, please be blessed with those portions. Let's dive into **Romans 4**. (Pray)
- **Romans 4:1-25** – *1 - What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, 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 Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 4 - Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. 5 - However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. 6 - David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 - "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 8 - Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them." 9 - Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as*

righteousness. 10 - Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! 11 - And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. 12 - And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. 13 - It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 - For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, 15 - because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 - Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. 17 - As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. 18 - Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 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.

- What a blessing to have Abraham as the father of our faith! His story is one that we can all identify with. A story of struggles, challenges, weakness and lack of faith.
- The man called father of our faith experienced great difficulties with famine in the Promised Land shortly after arriving in Canaan and receiving God's great promises. So severe was the famine that forced him to leave the land and seek survival in Egypt. (Gen.12)
- Abraham and Sarah had to wait and wait and wait for their promised Son. They were old past the age for childbearing, and they still had to go through all that.
- The man called Father of our faith had family conflicts. He had a major conflict with his herdsmen and his nephew Lot's herdsmen. They had to separate themselves from each other so big was the friction. (Gen.13 & 14). Then comes Hagar and Ismael, when the father of our faith, Abraham and his wife Sarah were trying to help God with their future multiplication. Resulting in jealousy and competition in the household.
- Abraham was tested by God again, again and again!

- The father of our faith, fearing for his life during the famine in Egypt lied to Pharaoh telling him that Sarah was only his sister, putting her into Pharaoh's harem to save himself.
- Abraham, together with Sarah laughs in doubt about God's promise just like any one of us would do given the circumstances or challenges!
- So, what was so great about Abraham the father of our faith? God, God's grace, God's forgiveness, God's power, and God's promises.
- Despite his struggles, his challenges and his weaknesses, God's love empowered Abraham to keep on believing God on his promises no matter what.
- Abraham knew for a fact that he was so far from being justified by God or put into a right standing with God by his own efforts (or works). He knew it was only by God's grace!
- **Romans 4:3** says that: "*Abraham believed God, and it was credit to him as righteousness.*"
- He knew he was ungodly and believed that only God could put him in right standing with God. We are also all ungodly, sinners, and we all fall short of the glory of God. **Romans 3:23**.
- And not only Abraham, but David also recognized this fact. **Romans 4:7-8** - "*Blessed are those whose transgressions are*

forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

- The greatest King of Israel, David said *“Happy man is the sinner whom God credits righteousness apart from works.”* (Merit). David who was guilty of adultery and murder, had also this amazing confession about God’s unmerited favor, grace, forgiveness, and justification.
- These two major figures in the history of Israel, both knew for a fact that God was right to condemn us all, but also that God was good and graceful to forgive us and place us in a right standing with him.
- Think about that: Maybe you are also struggling with sin, with challenges way beyond what you can fix. Maybe you are dealing with family problems and conflict, maybe you are lacking in your faith, doubting God, laughing. Well, welcome to the club!!! There is hope for you and me today!!!
- Like the Father of our faith, like the Great King David, just confess to God. Just rebound and repent. Just turn to God! Recognize your ungodliness and asked God to lift you up to save you, to forgive you, to heal you and to put you in a right standing with him based on His own merit and not yours.
- Just like the Father of our faith - Abraham, keep on believing!

- **Mark 5:36** – *“Be not afraid, only believe.”*
- Remember **Romans 4:16** – *“Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring.”* To all who believe just as our Father Abraham. Your promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace, and may be guaranteed to all who believe!
- I love **Romans 4:18** where it says: *“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”*
- Remember here, Abraham was 100 years old, Sarah went through menopause many years ago, they were as old as dead! But this ungodly sinner, against all hope, in hope believed! Abraham was of old age, but he also was of young faith!
- What’s against all hope for you in these days? Children, marriage, work, friends, bills, health? What are the promises that God has given you? What are his great and precious promises of **2 Peter 1:4** – *“Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”*
- **Hebrews 13:5** – *“I will never leave you, never will I forsake you.”*

- **Philippians 4:6-7** – *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus.”*
- **Philippians 4:19** – *“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”*
- **Psalms 145:9** – *“The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.”*
- **Isaiah 54:10** – *“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed; says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”*
- **Ephesians 3:20-21** – *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!” Amen.*
- I believe with all my heart that if our father in the faith, Abraham was here to speak to us, he would say: Please do not let it go of the promises God has made to you! Remember me, I struggled, I had challenges, I failed, I doubted God and I

together with my wife, laughed at God. But we quickly rebounded, we fall flat on our faces, we confessed and we kept on believing his many precious promises. You go now! By faith, not merit nor striving, only keep on believing.

- You, like Paul wrote about me, through the Holy Spirit, in **Romans 4:20-21** – *“Do not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but be strengthened in your faith, that will glorify God. Be fully persuaded that God had power to do what he has promised you.”*
- Remember that the same power that raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, is available to lift you. And remember that He was delivered over to death for all your sins, and that He was also raised to life for our justification! (**Romans 4:25**)
- The just, the righteous, the one who the Lord doesn't account his sins, shall live by faith! **Romans 1:17**
- Go now my child by faith, in God's promises, in Jesus name!
And that is Good News for us today!