



the book of
Romans

theology 101

ROMANS 4

FAITH CREDITS: GOD'S BOOKKEEPING



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Romans 4:4-5 (NIV) 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.



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I. Faith Makes Sense Because of Who God Is v.17b

Romans 4:17b (NIV) " He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--



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I. Faith Makes Sense Because of Who God Is v.17b

A. He is the God of Resurrection Power

“the God who gives life to the dead...”



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I. Faith Makes Sense Because of Who God Is v.17b

B. He is the God of Sovereign Faithfulness

“...calls things that are not as though they were.”

Hebrews 11:1-3 (NIV) ¹ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.



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II. Real Faith Looks Beyond Natural Obstacles -- Believing Against Hope

Romans 4:18 (NIV) 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."



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II. Real Faith Looks Beyond Natural Obstacles -- Believing Against Hope

Hebrews 11:6-8 ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. ⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world



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II. Real Faith Looks Beyond Natural Obstacles -- Believing Against Hope

and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. ⁸ 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.



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II. Real Faith Looks Beyond Natural Obstacles

-- Believing Against Hope

A. Obstacles facing Abraham -- God's gracious promise seemed humanly impossible

1) condition of his own body

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



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II. Real Faith Looks Beyond Natural Obstacles

-- Believing Against Hope

A. Obstacles facing Abraham -- God's gracious promise seemed humanly impossible

2) condition of Sarah's body

--and that Sarah's womb was also dead.



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II. Real Faith Looks Beyond Natural Obstacles -- Believing Against Hope

B. Obstacles facing us -- a test of faith -- How can a Holy God truly justify sinners apart from any merit or works?

²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,



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III. What are the Foundations of Our Faith?

A. Consider the Witnesses

Galatians 3:6-9 (NIV) ⁶ Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." ⁷ Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. ⁸ The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham:



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III. What are the Foundations of Our Faith?

A. Consider the Witnesses

"All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.



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III. What are the Foundations of Our Faith?

A. Consider the Witnesses

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.



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III. What are the Foundations of Our Faith?

B. Consider Jesus

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV) ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



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III. What are the Foundations of Our Faith?

B. Consider Jesus

Fix your eyes on Jesus:

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV) *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*



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III. What are the Foundations of Our Faith?

B. Consider Jesus

Fix your thoughts on Jesus:

Hebrews 3:1 (NIV) Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.



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III. What are the Foundations of Our Faith?

C. Consider the Father

Hebrews 11:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹ By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.



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III. What are the Foundations of Our Faith?

C. Consider the Father

Philippians 1:6 (NIV) being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.



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IV. Real Faith Will Always Receive God's Promised Blessing

A. What “fully persuaded faith looks like.

1. Faith is believing when I don't see it.

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV) 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.



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IV. Real Faith Will Always Receive God's Promised Blessing

A. What “fully persuaded faith looks like.

2. Faith is obeying when I don't understand it.

James 2:21-23 (NIV) ²¹ Was not our ancestor

Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together,



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IV. Real Faith Will Always Receive God's Promised Blessing

A. What “fully persuaded faith looks like.

2. Faith is obeying when I don't understand it.

and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³

And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.



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IV. Real Faith Will Always Receive God's Promised Blessing

A. What “fully persuaded faith looks like.

3. Faith is giving when I don't have it.



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IV. Real Faith Will Always Receive God's Promised Blessing

A. What “fully persuaded faith looks like.

4. Faith is persisting when I don't feel like it.



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IV. Real Faith Will Always Receive God's Promised Blessing

A. What “fully persuaded faith looks like.

5. Faith is thanking God before I receive it.



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IV. Real Faith Will Always Receive God's Promised Blessing

A. What “fully persuaded faith looks like.

6. Faith is trusting God if I don't get it.

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NIV) ¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted



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IV. Real Faith Will Always Receive God's Promised Blessing

A. What “fully persuaded faith looks like.

6. Faith is trusting God if I don't get it.

that they were aliens and strangers on earth. ¹⁴

People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have



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IV. Real Faith Will Always Receive God's Promised Blessing

A. What “fully persuaded faith looks like.

6. Faith is trusting God if I don't get it.

had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one.

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.



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