

# Romans 4

Chapter 4 of 16 · 25 Verses · Authorized King James Version

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## **Abraham Justified by Faith**

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

<sup>2</sup> For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

<sup>3</sup> For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

<sup>5</sup> But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

<sup>6</sup> Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

<sup>7</sup> Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

<sup>9</sup> Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

<sup>10</sup> How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

**11** And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

**12** And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

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### **The Promise Through Faith**

**13** For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

**14** For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

**15** Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

**16** Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

**17** (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

**18** Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

**19** And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

**20** He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

**21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

<sup>22</sup> And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

<sup>23</sup> Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

<sup>24</sup> But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

<sup>25</sup> Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

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## HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

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### **Believe** — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

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### **Faith** — πίστις (Pistis)

Faith, belief, trust

The Greek **pistis** (πίστις) denotes faith, belief, or trust—confidence in God's character and promises. It's both intellectual assent and relational trust, central to justification (Romans 5:1).

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### **Forgive** — ἀφίημι (Aphiemi)

To send away, forgive, release

The Greek **aphiemi** (ἀφίημι) means to send away or release—canceling a debt or dismissing an offense. Jesus taught us to pray 'forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors' (Matthew 6:12).

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### **Glory** — δόξα (Doxa)

Glory, majesty, splendor

The Greek **doxa** (δόξα) means glory, splendor, or magnificence—the radiant manifestation of God's perfection. Christ revealed the Father's glory: 'we beheld his glory' (John 1:14).

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### **God** — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

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### **Grace** — χάρις (Charis)

Grace, favor

The Greek **charis** (χάρις) denotes unmerited divine favor—God's kindness toward the undeserving. Salvation is 'by grace through faith' (Ephesians 2:8), not human merit.

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**Hope** — ἐλπίς (Elpis)

Hope, expectation

The Greek **elpis** (ἐλπίς) denotes hope—confident expectation of good. This hope is 'an anchor of the soul' (Hebrews 6:19), grounded in Christ's resurrection and the believer's future inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4).

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**Justify** — δικαίω (Dikaioo)

To justify, declare righteous

The Greek **dikaioo** (δικαίω) means to declare righteous—a forensic term for acquittal. Believers are 'justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus' (Romans 3:24).

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**Law** — νόμος (Nomos)

Law

The Greek **nomos** (νόμος) denotes law—particularly the Mosaic law. While believers are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14), Christ fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17) and wrote it on believers' hearts (Hebrews 8:10).

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**Lord** — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

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**Righteous** — δίκαιος (Dikaios)

Righteous, just

The Greek **dikaios** (δίκαιος) means righteous or just—conforming to God's standard. Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers through faith (Romans 4:5), making them legally righteous before God.

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**Sin** — ἁμαρτία (Hamartia)

Sin, missing the mark

The Greek **hamartia** (ἁμαρτία) means sin—missing the target of God's perfection. 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23), requiring Christ's atoning sacrifice.

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**Transgression** — παράβασις (Parabasis)

Transgression, violation

The Greek **parabasis** (παράβασις) means transgression—stepping across a boundary. 'Where no law is, there is no transgression' (Romans 4:15), for transgression requires a known standard to violate.

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**Wrath** — ὀργή (Orgē)

Wrath, anger

The Greek **orgē** (ὀργή) means wrath—settled, righteous anger against sin. Believers are 'saved from wrath through him' (Romans 5:9), as Christ bore God's wrath on the cross, satisfying divine justice.

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**CROSS REFERENCES**

**Romans 4:1** **References Abraham:** Romans 4:16; Isaiah 51:2; Matthew 3:9; John 8:56; Acts 13:26; 2 Corinthians 11:22. **Parallel theme:** Romans 7:7

**Romans 4:2** **Glory:** Romans 15:17; 1 Corinthians 1:29; 1:31; 4:7; 9:16; 2 Corinthians 5:12; 11:30. **Righteousness:** Philippians 3:9. **Parallel theme:** Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:9

**Romans 4:3** **Faith:** Romans 4:5; 4:9; 4:11; 10:11; Genesis 15:6; James 2:23. **Righteousness:** Psalms 106:31. **Word:** Romans 11:2

**Romans 4:4** **Grace:** Romans 11:6. **Parallel theme:** Romans 9:32; 11:35

**Romans 4:5** **Faith:** Romans 3:22; 4:3; Habakkuk 2:4; John 5:24; 6:29; Philippians 3:9. **Righteousness:** Romans 10:3

**Romans 4:6** **Righteousness:** Romans 1:17; 4:11; Isaiah 54:17; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9. **Parallel theme:** 2 Timothy 1:9. **Blessing:** Psalms 112:1; Galatians 3:14; Ephesians 1:3

**Romans 4:7** **Sin:** Psalms 85:2; Matthew 9:2

**Romans 4:8** **Sin:** Psalms 32:2; 1 Peter 2:24

**Romans 4:9** **Faith:** Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:14. **Parallel theme:** Ephesians 3:8; Colossians 3:11

**Romans 4:10** **Parallel theme:** Galatians 5:6; 6:15

**Romans 4:11** **Faith:** Romans 3:22; 10:4; 10:6; 10:11; John 6:35; Ephesians 1:13; Hebrews 11:7. **Parallel theme:** Luke 19:9; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 4:30

**Romans 4:12** **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 2:20. **Related:** Song of Solomon 1:8

**Romans 4:13** **Covenant:** Romans 9:8; Galatians 3:29. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 12:3; 17:16; 28:14; Psalms 2:8

**Romans 4:14** **Word:** Isaiah 55:11; Galatians 2:21; Hebrews 7:19; 7:28. **Faith:** Romans 3:31; 4:16; Philippians 3:9

**Romans 4:15** **Word:** Romans 5:13; 1 Corinthians 15:56; Galatians 3:10; 3:19; 1 John 3:4. **Judgment:** Ezekiel 7:19; John 3:36; Ephesians 5:6. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 4:8. **Sin:** John 15:22

**Romans 4:16** **Faith:** Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:8. **Covenant:** Romans 9:8. **Grace:** Titus 3:7

**Romans 4:17** **References God:** Romans 3:29; John 5:25; 1 Corinthians 1:28; 1 Peter 2:10. **Parallel theme:** Romans 8:11; Isaiah 48:13; 55:12; John 5:21; 6:63; Hebrews 11:12

**Romans 4:18** **Hope:** Romans 5:5; 8:24; Proverbs 13:12; Ezekiel 37:11. **Faith:** Acts 27:25

**Romans 4:19** **Parallel theme:** Genesis 17:17. **Faith:** Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31

**Romans 4:20**

**Faith:** Isaiah 7:9; Luke 1:45; 1 Corinthians 16:13. **Parallel theme:** Daniel 10:19; Zechariah 8:9; 8:13; 2 Corinthians 12:10; 2 Timothy 2:1. **References God:** 2 Kings 7:19; Isaiah 35:4

**Romans 4:21** **Parallel theme:** Romans 8:38; Genesis 18:14; Psalms 115:3; Jeremiah 32:17; 32:27; Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:37; 1:45; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 11:19

**Romans 4:22** **Righteousness:** Romans 4:3; 4:6

**Romans 4:23** **Parallel theme:** Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6; 10:11

**Romans 4:24** **Resurrection:** Acts 2:24; 13:30. **Faith:** 1 Peter 1:21

**Romans 4:25** **Parallel theme:** Romans 8:3; Matthew 20:28; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 5:2; 1 John 2:2; Revelation 1:5. **Righteousness:** 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18. **Resurrection:** 1 Corinthians 15:17

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