

THE BEST ASSURANCE: GOD IS A PROMISE KEEPER

JULY 17, 2022

WORSHIP

Praise Him Forever, My Redeemer Lives, Hope in the Precious Cross, Not for A Moment, Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

WELCOME

Who is the person you trust the most? What makes him/her trustworthy?

WORD

ROMANS 4:18-25

¹⁸ In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "So shall your descendants be."

¹⁹ Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; ²⁰ yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. ²² Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness. ²³ Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, ²⁴ but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ He who was delivered over because of our wrongdoings, and was raised because of our justification.

If it's crystal clear that only Jesus is the only way to go to heaven, then how come some people still hold on to their way of salvation?

Here are possible reasons:

1. This has been our belief. You mean to say, my grandparents are wrong?
2. Are not all belief systems the same?
3. For me, I just know that God is love. I think He will save me no matter what I do.
4. I'm a good person compared to most people I know. I think I'm ok.
5. My religious leaders couldn't be wrong. They're smart!

These reasons are not something new. The apostle Paul also had to deal with different Jewish leaders who had reasons for their salvation. They think they're saved because of their good works and they're teaching the Gentiles that they're not saved because they're not doing what they're doing. Paul started with Abraham in **Romans 4:1-2** because the Jews' argument to the Gentiles is that their forefather Abraham who encountered Yahweh was saved because he was circumcised. He did something to be saved. **Romans 4** is written to correct this belief system. Paul wanted them to realize that even if you are a good person but you don't have faith, you are not saved.

The best assurance of our salvation is God because He is a promise keeper. If we believe God is a promise keeper, then we must:

1. TRUST HIS CHARACTER (Romans 4:3-8)

God's character is consistent in the Old Testament until today. God will never go against His nature. If He says He is good, He is perfectly good. If He says He is just, He will not let the guilty go unpunished. If He says He is loving, He loves you dearly. If He is the only Savior, the way, the truth, and the life, then we must believe in that. There is no other way except Jesus Christ. He will never go against His nature.

Paul talked to the Jews about how Abraham was saved according to the Scriptures (**v.3**). Abraham believed and it was credited to him as righteousness. If it's all about works, then it is not by grace (**v.4**). Abraham believed first before his circumcision. This means we don't work for our salvation (**v.5**). Paul also mentioned David in **v.6** where it says we are declared not guilty because of faith and not because of works. If we don't believe how lawless we are, then we can't appreciate nor make sense of what David said in the psalms (**vv.7-8**). We need to understand we can't save ourselves, but only through faith in Jesus Christ. People who have truly realized how undeserving we are of God's love are the people who will naturally love God with their all and experience real transformation.

God is promise keeper. The God in the Old Testament is the same God we're worshipping today. If he kept His promise to the people in the Old Testament, He would also keep His promise today.

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2. TRUST HIS POWER (Romans 4:9-16)

We usually trust someone who has a proven track record. Jesus has a perfect track record. We need to trust His power.

The Jewish people kept pressuring the non-Jewish people that they're not saved because they're not obeying the law and are uncircumcised. Paul answered that Abraham was saved while uncircumcised (**Romans 4:9-10**). **Genesis 15** narrates God's promise to Abraham. He believed God and it was credited as righteousness (**v.6**). After Abraham believed, God made a covenant with him (**vv.9-11**). God revealed to him what's going to happen (**vv.13-17**). Everything happened as what God said.

Paul wanted the Jews to realize God is a promise keeper and that Abraham was righteous even before he was circumcised. God wants us to see His power, but it usually happens when we step out in faith. Many are missing out on God's power because they don't step out in faith. We all have weaknesses and struggles, but God can work in us and give us the strength to finish the work He entrusted to us.

Paul clarified to the Jews that Abraham had the circumcision later in **Genesis 17** and it is a sign or seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised (**Romans 4:11**). Everything we do for the Lord should be a result of our faith in Jesus. We do them out of love and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you can work for your salvation, you don't need grace. Faith and grace go together. The promise is for everyone, but you need to step out in faith (**v.16**). We need to trust God's power that He can change lives, that He's the only Savior—that His power can work in and through our lives if we only believe.

3. TRUST HIS TIMING (Romans 4:17-25)

Nothing is impossible for God. He keeps His promises in His own time and His timing is always perfect. In **Romans 4:17-18**, Abraham is not yet circumcised and didn't have children. Yet God said that He has made him a father of many, and he believed. He waited on the Lord for the promise. He waited for years, and his faith never wavered (**vv.19-21**). God is honored when we step out in faith despite the difficulties (**v.22**). He's not going to leave us. This is not just the story of Abraham; it is for us who believe, that this righteousness is credited to (**vv.23-25**).

God looks us at as clean because of our faith. We have the greatest proof that our faith is the correct faith because Jesus died and rose again. The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate proof that our faith in Him is not futile. Jesus is the only person who lived on earth who spoke about his death and resurrection and was able to pull it off! Only Jesus will bring us to heaven.

Step in faith and hold on to His ways for He will always be faithful!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Has it been easy or difficult for you to trust in God's character, power, and timing?

2. Setting It Right.

What made an impact to you in the message today about God being a Promise Keeper? In what area in your life do you need to apply this truth?

3. Living It Out.

What do you need to do to trust in God's character, power, and timing?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for loved ones to come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for their salvation. Pray that the Word of God will open their hearts and minds to this truth. Strive to be a person whom other people can trust. Share this message on the best assurance (Romans 4) to them this week.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of newly-elected and incumbent public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared.
- God's intervention to restore peace and order in countries going through economic and political turmoil (Sri Lanka, etc.).

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 4:8

⁸ Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.