

Heirs Romans 4:1-25

What do you think is the requirement to get into heaven?

I have tried my best to be a good Christian.
Salvation by works

I believe in God and try my best to do His will.
Salvation by faith plus works

I believe in God with all my heart.
Salvation by faith as a work

I no longer trust in obedience as a way to be saved. I trust God who transfers His righteousness to me.
Biblical salvation

I. Credited

Let me use Abraham as an example. It is clear that humanly speaking, he was the founder of Judaism. What was his experience of being made right with God? Was it by his good works of keeping the law? No. For if it was by the things he did, he would have something to boast about, but no one boasts before God. Listen to what the Scriptures say:

“Because Abraham believed God’s words, his faith transferred God’s righteousness into his account.”

When people work, they earn wages. It can’t be considered a free gift, because they earned it. But no one earns God’s righteousness. It can only be transferred when we no longer rely on our own works, but believe in the one who powerfully declares the ungodly to be righteous in His eyes. It is faith that transfers God’s righteousness into your account!

Romans 4:1-5

Heirs Romans 4:1-25

II. Covered

Even King David himself speaks to us regarding the complete wholeness that comes inside a person when God’s powerful declaration of righteousness is heard over our life. Apart from our works, God’s work is enough. Here’s what David says:

“What happy fulfillment is ahead for those whose rebellion has been forgiven and whose sins are covered by blood.

What happy progress comes to them when they hear the Lord speak over them, “I will never hold your sins against you!”

Romans 4:6-8

III. Called

The promise depends on faith so that it can be experienced as a grace-gift, and now it extends to all the descendants of Abraham. This promise is not only meant for those who obey the law, but also to those who enter into the faith of Abraham, the father of us all. That’s what the Scripture means when it says:

“I have made you the father of many nations.”

He is our example and father, for in God’s presence he believed that God can raise the dead and call into being things that don’t even exist yet. Against all odds, when it looked hopeless, Abraham believed the promise and expected God to fulfill it. He took God at His word, and as a result he became the father of many nations. God’s declaration over him came to pass:

“Your descendants will be so many that they will be impossible to count!”

Romans 4:16-18