

# **BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

## **Abraham's Righteousness – Part II**

Romans 4:13-25

2000

### **Introduction**

Last week, we discovered that Abraham was not justified by circumcision, but by faith in God.

In the text we are considering today, Paul takes his teaching on justification by faith alone a step further by saying that just as Abraham was not justified by circumcision, neither was he justified by observing the Mosaic Law.

### **I How Did Abraham Receive the Promise?**

A. The means of righteousness

1. It was not through the law

As we discussed last week, Abraham was credited with righteousness at least 14 years before the sign of circumcision was given to Abraham. And once again, Paul points out the importance of chronology in understanding the role of the Law in salvation. As every Jew knew based on Gal 3:17, the Law was given to Moses until 430 years after Abraham was made heir to the promise by faith.

When Abraham was declared right before God, he was neither circumcised nor in possession of the Mosaic Law. Circumcision had not been required, and the Law had not been revealed.

### **Application:**

The person who trusts in his ability to save himself by keeping the law is cursed because of the impossibility of perfectly keeping God's law. We need to understand just how radically sinful we are -- how sin so effects every part of us that we are totally unable to live up to God's standards and effect our own salvation -- that we are utterly and hopelessly lost apart from Christ.

Gal 2:15-16 "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."

Gal 3:10-14 "All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them."

The purpose of the Law was to reveal God's perfect standards of righteousness and to show men that they are unable in their own power to live up to those standards. Awareness of that inability should drive men to God in faith. The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith." Gal 3:24

Gal 3:17-19 "What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise."

## 2. It was through faith in the promise

### a. That he would be heir of the world

What promise is Paul referring to?

1. That he would have an heir (Isaac) - Gen 15:4
2. That he would have descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore - Gen 15:5
3. That he would be given the Promised Land - Gen 15:7
4. That all the nations would be blessed through him - Gen 18:18
5. That he would inherit a heavenly dwelling (a city whose architect and builder is God) - Heb 11:10
6. That God would send a Messiah - the Savior of the world  
John 8:56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

## B. The effects of the law

### 1. For those who live by law:

#### a. Faith has no value

If men were able to perfectly keep the Law, which they can't, faith in the promise would be unnecessary.

Gal 3:12 "The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them."

#### b. The promise is worthless

Gal 3:17-18 "What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise."

c. It brings wrath

The Law simply brings to light the disparity between God's holiness and our sinfulness. As a result it brings greater accountability and greater judgment.

John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Paul anticipates the Jew's next question: What is the purpose of the Law?

1. It makes us conscious of our sin

Rom 3:20 "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."

2. It makes us accountable for our sin

Rom 3:19-20 "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."

Gal 3:19 "What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator."

2. It condemns us as sinners

2 Cor 3:6-9 "He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!"

3. It leads us to Christ

Gal 3:23-25 "Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law."

2. For those without law:

a. There is no transgression

Rom 5:13-14 "... for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from

the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.”

John 15:22 “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin.”

Rom 2:12 “All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.”

Phil 3:8-9 “What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

## **II How do we Receive the Promise?**

### **A. The promise comes by faith**

Gal 3:7-12 “Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them.”

### **1. So that it may be by grace**

Grace is everything. If it weren't for grace, even a person's faith could not save him. That is why faith is no simply another form of human works. The power of salvation, or justification, is in God's grace, not in man's faith.

Eph 2:8-9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Gal 3:6-14 “Consider Abraham: 'He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.' Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: 'All nations will be blessed through you.' So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.' Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, 'The righteous will live by faith.' The law is

not based on faith; on the contrary, 'The man who does these things will live by them.' Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.' He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

2. So that it may be guaranteed

a. To all of Abraham's offspring:

Abraham was the spiritual prototype of every genuine believer. He was a pagan, idolatrous, ungodly sinner who trusted not in his own efforts but in God's gracious promise.

1. To those who are of the law

Acts 13:38-39 "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the Law of Moses."

2. To those who are of the faith

In the same way that Abraham was made righteous simply by believing the promise of God, we are made righteous by believing in God's promise of salvation through trust in His Son, Jesus Christ. That act of faith is credited to him as Christ's own righteousness.

Rom 1:16-17 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

B. The promise: Abraham would be the father of many nations

Gen 17:4-5 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations."

1. He believed in God:

a. Who gives life to the dead

Although there had been no recorded resurrection at this point in history, and although God had not revealed any doctrine of resurrection. Abraham believed in God's resurrection power!

John 5:21 "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it."

Rom 8:11 “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”

- b. Who calls things that are not as though they were  
God creates ex nihilo -- out of nothing  
Bara = Used in Genesis 1:1 "A verb used exclusively of God. Man could not reach up to the powers inherent in this word, for it describes full miracle. By the sovereign, originative power of God something absolutely new was brought into being.

Heb 11:3 “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.”

1 Pet 2:9-10 “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy”

### III How Did Abraham Exercise Faith?

#### A. The evidence of his faith

1. Against all hope he believed God's promise

**Hope** = "The desire for something that might be true or might happen"

The Lord promised Abraham and Sarah, who were old and childless, that their descendents would be as innumerable as the stars in the heavens. From a human perspective, the promise was ludicrous. And any hope that Abraham had at first had to be severely challenged by the additional 14 years that God delayed in fulfilling the promise. From a human perspective he had no basis for hope.

He also believed God regarding the promise that Abraham would be made the father of a great nation and would inherit Canaan. This promise wasn't fulfilled until some 600 years later when Joshua led the Israelites to possess the land of Canaan. [And some of us become impatient when we don't get answers right away!]

#### **Illustration:**

Mark 5:35-36 “While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

2. He did not weaken in his faith:

To become weak in faith is to allow doubt to cloud and undermine the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see.” Heb 11:1

After Abraham received the promise he was undoubtedly tempted to question the promise of God as month after month—year after year – ticked by without a son.

**Illustration:**

People who want a child but can't conceive. Their whole world is structured around conceiving and dealing with the disappointment of failure.

Prov 13:12 "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."

But, in spite of all this testing Abraham remained faithful to believing God's promise.

There is almost invariably a time gap between the promise of God and the performance of God. Why? So that the Lord can prepare you for what is coming.

Mark 9:23-24 "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

a. Despite his age and deadness

The procreative deadness of Abraham's physical body did not diminish or weaken his faith. His faith was in a supernatural God who is not limited by human limitations.

b. Despite Sarah's age and deadness

Even when he considered the fact that Sarah was old, advanced in age and past childbearing, Abraham still maintained his undaunted faith in God.

Hebrews 11:11 "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."

Biblical faith does not deny the existence of obstacles, but evaluates them in the light of God's Word and power.

**Application:**

How do you respond when your emotions and life's circumstances are calling into question the promises of God? How do you respond when Satan whispers in your ear that you are a loser, a failure – that you will never measure up? How do you respond when your finances are tight and you're not sure how you are going to pay your rent or electricity?

Gen 18:11-14 "Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she

thought, 'After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?' Then the LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.'"

Heb 11:11-19 "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. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. 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 that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 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. By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.' Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death."

### **Application:**

There are many other biblical accounts of men and women having unwavering faith in God in the face of impossibility. One of those examples is Noah

1. Noah building the ark before the existence of rain

Heb 11:7 "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family."

3. He did not waver through unbelief

Abram means "Exalted Father." For the first 100 years of his life, Abraham must have had to endure taunts like, "hey, Exalted Father, how many kids do you have?" But it got worse when, at 100 years of age, the Lord told Abram he was to change his name. Abram must have initially breathed a huge sigh of relief until he learned his new name was Abraham --"Father of many nations."

James 1:5-8 "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does."



a. Regarding the promise of God

Abraham did not waver between faith and doubt as many believers do.

The greatest obstacle to his faith was the biological impossibility of Abraham and Sarah having offspring. He was almost 100 and Sarah was 99 and barren.

**Application:**

So often my faith is contingent on what seems possible to me. If I can humanly justify the possibility, I find it easier to believe – and to pray. But if what God promises seems humanly impossible, then my faith can waver. For all our lip service to faith in God, we rely chiefly on what we can do ourselves or what we consider humanly possible. The ultimate question I, "How big is my God?"

Abraham took every relevant factor into consideration, including his advanced age. He contemplated all the facts, which he fully understood, and he still believed God! This is remarkable faith!

Now we all have times of doubt. Sarah laughed at the absurdity of the promise. And yet she eventually put her unqualified trust in God's Word. Even Abraham questioned God about this promise. But struggling faith is not necessarily doubt. Just as temptation to sin is not itself sin.

John 20:27-29 "Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Matt 14:29-33 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Isa 7:9 "The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son. If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."

Luke 1:18-20 "Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell

you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.”

Luke 1:45 “Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!”

#### 4. He was strengthened in his faith

How was Abraham’s faith strengthened?

##### 1. Through God’s Word.

Gen 18:11-14 “Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?" Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.”

##### 2. Through a knowledge of God

Often times in scripture we find God’s people in times of crisis recounting the stories of God’s great deliverances. We can do the same today. By reading and meditating on God’s word and how He has delivered on His promises to the saints of old, we can take courage and be strengthened in our own faith during times of sever challenge.

Isa 7:9 “The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son. If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.”

1 Cor 16:13 “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”

Eph 6:10 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”

Luke 8:50 “Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.”

John 4:50 “Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed.”

Acts 27:25 “So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.”

Heb 11:11 “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.”

5. Against all hope he gave glory to God:

Godly faith always glorifies God -- even before the promise is fulfilled. Of course, a fulfilled promise requires no faith. But one yet unfulfilled requires true faith.

Application:

I find that worship and thanksgiving -- especially when I can't see how God will pull something off -- builds my faith immensely. Glorifying God through worship and thanksgiving builds my faith even in the face of daunting circumstances.

a. Being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised

How did Abraham come to such a massive exercise of faith?

He weighed the human impossibility of becoming a father against the divine impossibility of God being able to break his word and decided that if God was God, nothing is impossible.

2 Tim 1:12 "That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day."

Heb 11:13 "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 that they were aliens and strangers on earth."

Gen 18:14 "Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son."

Jer 32:17 "Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."

Jer 32:27 "I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"

Matt 19:26 "Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Luke 1:45-49 "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name."

Eph 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.”

B. The outcome of his faith:

1. He was credited with righteousness

Abraham was credited with righteousness not because of something he did for the Lord, or by virtue of the fact he proved himself to the Lord, but because he simply believed in the Lord.

It is not that faith merits salvation, but rather that faith accepts salvation from God's gracious hand. Rom 4:3 “What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Rom 3:22-24 “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Gal 3:9-14 “So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”

#### **IV How Are We to Exercise Faith?**

A. The promise is also for us:

Rom 15:4 “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

1 Cor 10:11 “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.”

2 Tim 3:16-17 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Acts 2:38-39 “Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Gal 3:6-7 “Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.”

1. Who will be credited with righteousness

The wonderful thing about Abraham's faith being credited to him as righteousness is that the same principle applies to every person who trusts in the Son of God.

Gal 2:15-16 “We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”

2. Who believe in God:

This is a key phrase in the text. Faith is the necessary condition for salvation.

There are two things that mark a person who has Abraham-like faith:

Mark 16:16 “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

John 3:14-15 “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

John 3:18 “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.”

Rom 10:9-10 “That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

1 Pet 1:21 “Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.”

a. Who delivered Jesus over to death for our sins

Delivered over = "The commitment of a criminal to his punishment"

Jesus was delivered over to serve the sentence of death that our sins deserve, and he was raised up to provide the justification before God that we could never attain in our own power or merit.

Isa 53:5-6 “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Matt 20:28 "... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1 Cor 15:3-4 "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

2 Cor 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2 Cor 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

1 Pet 1:18-19 "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

1 Pet 2:24 "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

1 Pet 3:18 "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

1 Jn 2:2 "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

b. Who raised Jesus to life for our justification

Heb 10:12-14 "But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

1 Pet 1:21 "Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God."

Isa 53:11-12 "After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Rom 4:5 “However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

1 Cor 1:30 “It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”

Gal 2:15-16,17 “We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified ... I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

### **Conclusion**

Justification before God is a free gift that is founded:

1. Not upon behaving but upon believing
2. No upon trying, but upon trusting
3. Not upon doing, but upon what Jesus has already done.

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