

## The Two Faiths of Abraham

**Romans 4:11-12** 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.

...that he might be the father of ALL them that believe

...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

**Romans 3:29-30** *Is he* the God of the Jews only? *is he* not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: **30** Seeing *it is* one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

...which shall justify the circumcision BY FAITH

...and uncircumcision THROUGH FAITH

### JUSTIFICATION OF ABRAHAM WHICH IS BY FAITH

The Circumcision (Jew), living at the time of Jesus, should have understood perfectly well what justification by faith looked like. Under the O.T., from the time of creation, faithful obedience was an essential aspect of justification. A just man was one who was righteous before the LORD, as imputed righteousness was based on faithful obedience.

>>Adam & Eve was excommunicated from the garden of Eden because of disobedience... “And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? **Genesis 3:11** “Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.” **Genesis 3:23**

...Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden

>>Abel’s sacrifice was accepted & Cable’s rejected because... “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.” **Hebrews 11:4**

...by which he obtained witness that HE WAS RIGHTEOUS, God testifying of HIS GIFTS

>>Noah’s family only survived the flood because... “And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.” **Genesis 7:1** Noah came out on this side of the flood becoming heir of the righteousness which is by faith... “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” **Hebrews 11:7**

...for THEE HAVE I SEEN RIGHTEOUS before me in this generation

...became HEIR of the righteousness which is BY FAITH

>>Abraham was a bonafide O.T. saint living by faith...“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.” **Hebrews 11:8** Abraham’s life fit the description of Hebrews’ definition of one living by faith... “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” **Hebrews 11:6** Abraham’s faithful obedience was rewarded by God... “Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” **Genesis 26:5**

As there was award in obeying God, so were there consequences in disobedience. Adam was ejected from the garden, Cain’s offering was rejected by the LORD and mankind was destroyed under the wrath of the flood.

Another element of separation was instituted under Abraham, that being a Covenant of Circumcision in which... “And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, THAT SOUL SHALL BE CUT OFF FROM HIS PEOPLE; he hath broken my covenant.” **Genesis 17:14**

This Covenant of Circumcision was miniscule compared to the imputation of sin (Rom 5:13) to which the Mosaic Covenant brought upon the nation of Israel via consequences of disobedience... “And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.” **Acts 13:39**

...from which YE COULD NOT be justified BY THE LAW OF MOSES

The kingdom gospel presented to Israel by John the Baptist, Jesus & His Apostles pre & post cross ministries was one of repentance, believe & be baptized for the remission of sins (Mk 16:16; Acts 2:36-38) to which was rejected nationally. Thus, Israel is currently in a state of temporary blindness.

### **JUSTIFICATION WHICH IS OF FAITH OF ABRAHAM**

However... “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.” **Galatians 3:8**

...the scripture, FORESEEING that God would JUSTIFY the HEATHEN THROUGH FAITH

How unfortunate that this doctrine is missed by so many! The very group of people that the Mosaic Covenant discriminated against, the scripture foresaw the day in which through the gospel and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, that both the Gentile and heathen would be reached via the gospel of the grace of God. What this justification would look like is described in Genesis 15:1-6... “And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. **6** And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.” **Genesis 15:5-6**

...And he believed in the LORD;

...and he counted it to him for righteousness

Abraham was ALREADY a bonafide O.T. saint living BY FAITH long before this account, but on this day imputed righteousness was based on believing what was said and not on faithful obedience! The gospel was the good news concerning his seed and Abraham accepted this as fact... “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. **22** And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. **23** Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; **24** But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; **25** Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” **Romans 4:19-25**

...therefore IT was IMPUTED to him FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

...But for US also, to whom it shall be IMPUTED, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead

The door OF FAITH was opened to the Gentiles via Paul’s gospel and ministry in Acts 13-14 as the first evidence of heathen being reached in Acts 17. Typologies & prophecies of the Lord Jesus Christ came to full fruition through Paul’s gospel, the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery... “Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, **26** But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:” **Romans 16:25-26**

...for the obedience OF FAITH

For a number of years Romans 10:1-10 didn’t make sense to me as it appeared that Paul was comparing apples to oranges. Obviously, Paul is speaking to our justification & righteousness regarding salvation, but contrasting it with a system of righteousness via obedience to the law. Not until one fully realizes the distinction between justification ‘by faith’ & ‘through faith’ which is ‘of faith’, can they fully appreciate the salvation we have in Christ today! Under the Mosaic Covenant, a just man was one who was righteous before the LORD, as imputed righteousness was based on faithful obedience... “...but the JUST shall live by HIS faith.” **Hab 2:4**. It is critical in understanding when OUR righteousness is imputed... “For Christ *is* the END OF THE LAW for righteousness to every one that believeth. **5** For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which DOETH THOSE THINGS shall live by them. **6** But the righteousness which is OF FAITH speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*;) **7** Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) **8** But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word OF FAITH, which WE PREACH; **9** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10** For with the heart man BELIEVETH UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS; and with the mouth CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION. **11** For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” **Romans 10:4-11**

Under the law, the circumcision WORKETH UNTO righteousness, today one BELIEVETH UNTO righteousness!

Before Paul’s gospel to the Gentile & heathen, the circumcision was being justified ‘by faith’ in pointing to Abraham as their father on the basis of Hebrews 11:8. Via Paul’s gospel, the Gentile now could claim Abraham as their father based on Abraham’s reaction to the LORD in Genesis 15 in simply believing a promise of God... “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,” **Romans 4:16**

The imputation of the righteousness of Christ to the believer today is the moment in which publicly or privately (as in the case of the thief on the cross)... “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man BELIEVETH UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS; and with the mouth CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION.”