

Galatians 3:6-9

6-7. Just as **Abraham "BELIEVED GOD, and it was ACCOUNTED to him for RIGHTEOUSNESS."** Therefore know that **ONLY those who are of FAITH are SONS of ABRAHAM.**

- **Romans 4:19-24** "And _____ being _____ in _____, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did _____ waver at the _____ of _____ through _____, but was strengthened in _____, giving glory to God, and being fully _____ that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore, 'It was _____ to him for _____.' Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was _____ to him, but also for us. It shall be _____ to us who _____ in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead."
- **Genesis 15:5-6** "Then He (God) brought him (Abraham) outside and said, 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he (Abraham) _____ in the Lord, and He (God) _____ it to him for _____."
- **James 2:21-23** "Was not _____ our _____ justified by _____ when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that _____ was working together with his works, and by works _____ was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'Abraham _____ God, and it was _____ to him for _____.' And he was called the friend of God."
- **Hebrews 11:17-19** "By _____ Abraham, when he was _____, _____ up Isaac, and he who had received the promises _____ up his only begotten _____, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' accounting (believing) that _____ was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense."
- **Romans 4:5** "But to him who does _____ WORK (doing good deeds in order to try to earn salvation) but _____ on Him who _____ the ungodly, his _____ is accounted for _____."

Definition: "It was ACCOUNTED to him for RIGHTEOUSNESS" - Both the words "accounted" and "imputed" are used in these verses. "Account" means **"to consider to be"** and "impute" means **"to ascribe or attribute to another."** In other words, **God attributes or CONSIDERS our FAITH as righteousness.** To "account" is also a financial term, as in "bank account." In our case, we have zero in our "righteousness account", but God imputes or accounts to us the righteousness of Jesus Christ into our bankrupt account.

- **Romans 4:1-8** "What then shall we say that _____ our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by _____, he has something of which to boast, but _____ before _____. For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham _____ God, and it was _____ to him for _____.' Now to him who _____, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does _____ work but _____ on Him who _____ the ungodly, his _____ is _____ for _____, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes _____ apart from _____: 'Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not _____ sin.'"

- **II Corinthians 5:21** "For He made Him who knew no sin to be _____ for _____, that we might become the _____ of _____ in Him."
- **Romans 9:31-32** "But _____, pursuing the law of _____, has not attained to the law of _____. Why? Because they did not seek it by _____, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they _____ at that stumbling _____."

Definition: "STONE OF STUMBLING" - Putting your **trust in Jesus** to save you and **believing that what He did on the cross PAID FOR YOUR SINS** is so simple that many people "**stumble over it**" or cannot accept it. They want to be able to DO SOMETHING to EARN their own salvation, and they refuse to accept GOD'S WAY of salvation. Some people reject Jesus altogether, but many want to INCLUDE Jesus in **their own system** of works, good deeds and religious ideas ("keeping the law"). By doing this they are **DISOBEDIENT to God's word**, because God's word says salvation is by **FAITH IN JESUS** plus **NOTHING ELSE!!**

Definition: "JUSTIFIED" - **Justification or the ACT of being justified** means that God by His GRACE **declares RIGHTEOUS** the sinner who believes on Jesus Christ. God says that we are righteous because of what Jesus did on the cross, and His righteousness, NOT because of anything WE did. It is **NOT a process of becoming** righteous, **it is a ONE-TIME ACT of GRACE** - we are MADE RIGHTEOUS the moment we accept Jesus as our Savior! It is NOT merely FORGIVENESS, although forgiveness is INCLUDED - God does indeed FORGIVE AND FORGET OUR SINS. However, **JUSTIFICATION means God even FORGETS THAT WE WERE EVER SINNERS!** There is NO MORE RECORD of our sins.

- **Romans 3:21-24 & 28** "But now the _____ of God _____ from the _____ is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the _____ of God which is through _____ in Jesus Christ to all and on all who _____. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being _____ freely (as a gift) by His _____ through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Verse 28) "Therefore we conclude that a man is _____ by _____ apart from the deeds of the law."
- **Luke 18:13-14** "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God be _____ to me a _____!' 'I tell you, this man went down to his house _____ rather than the other; for everyone who _____ himself will be abased (put down, humbled), and he who _____ himself will be _____."

Definition: "A man is NOT JUSTIFIED by the WORKS of the LAW" - The Bible teaches that salvation is by FAITH ALONE, so where do our good works (obeying God and keeping God's commandments) come into it? **Are we justified by FAITH or by WORKS?** Some Scriptures, such as Romans 4 and James 2, SEEM to be contradictory, because they both use the terms "justified by works": in James it says we ARE justified by our works, and in Romans it says we are NOT justified by our works. This is not a contradiction, however, because if you look at each one in its context, you will see that Romans is speaking about **being justified before God**, and James is speaking about being justified (having a good testimony) before men. **Our good works should be evidence to OTHER PEOPLE** that we belong to Jesus Christ.

- **Matthew 5:16** "Let your light so shine before _____, that they may _____ your _____ and glorify your Father in heaven."

- **Titus 3:8** "This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have _____ in _____ should be careful to maintain _____. These things are _____ and profitable to _____."
- **Titus 3:14** "And let our people also learn to maintain _____, to meet urgent _____, that they may not be _____."
- **Colossians 1:10** "That you may have a walk _____ of the Lord, fully _____ Him, being fruitful in every _____."
- **Galatians 2:16** "Knowing that a man is not _____ by the works of the law but by _____ in Jesus Christ, even we have _____ in Christ Jesus, that we might be _____ by faith in _____ and not by the works of the _____; for by the _____ of the law (keeping the Old Testament commandments) no flesh shall be _____."

Definition: "Was not ABRAHAM our father JUSTIFIED by WORKS?" - There is another kind of justification, the kind spoken of in James, and that is referring to our witness or testimony before MEN rather than before God. Our works become a testimony to others, because **REAL faith will have good works as a RESULT** of salvation. Someone has said, "Salvation is by faith alone, but real faith that saves is never alone." Romans 4:2 says, "if Abraham was **justified by WORKS**, he has something of which to boast, **but not before God.**" Justify in this sense means **"to prove or show to be just, right or righteous."** Abraham was **"justified" in that his actions SHOWED or PROVED** that he was a righteous man and a believer in God. There is a popular saying that goes, "If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough **evidence** to convict you?" Do people know there is something different about you now that you are a Christian, or do you act just the same as you always did? St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel always, and when necessary, use words." We are talking about the kind of witness we have before non-believers. **Do they see Christ in us, or at least see us on our way and in the process of being changed and transformed?** Philippians 2:12-13 says our salvation must be "WORKED OUT" so that it can be seen on the outside. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16 that **our good WORKS would be SEEN by men**, and because of them, it would cause men to glorify God. In John 15:8, Jesus said the Father would be glorified by our producing MUCH FRUIT, which is another way to refer to our good works.

- **Romans 4:1-3** "What then shall we say that _____ our _____ has found according to the flesh? For if _____ was _____ by _____, he has something of which to boast, but _____ before God. For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham _____ God, and it was _____ to him for _____.'"

Definition: "ONLY those who are of FAITH are SONS of ABRAHAM" - During the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, He had many conflicts with the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders **who thought they were righteous and "saved" in God's sight simply because they were descended from Abraham.** Jesus made it very clear, and Paul makes it clear here in Galatians that only those who have **the same kind of FAITH as Abraham** are considered his descendants by God. Yes, the Pharisees and Jewish leaders were PHYSICAL descendants of Abraham, but as far as God is concerned, the important thing is to be a SPIRITUAL descendant of Abraham. Abraham is called the "Father of Faith," so if we have put our faith in Christ, we are Abraham's descendants (children).

- **Luke 19:9-10** "And Jesus said to him, 'Today _____ has come to this house, because he also is a _____ of _____; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.'"
- **John 8:37-40** I know that you are _____ descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak what I have seen with My _____, and you do what you have seen with _____ father." They answered and said to Him, "_____ is our _____." Jesus said to them, "_____ you were _____ children, you would do the works of _____. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did _____ do this." **Hebrews 11:8** "By _____ Abraham _____ when he was called (by God) to _____ to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance. And he _____ out, not _____ where he was going."
- **Matthew 3:9** "And do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have _____ as our _____.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up _____ to _____ from these stones."
- **Galatians 3:29** "And if you are _____, then you are _____ seed (descendants), and _____ according to the promise."

8-9. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the nations by faith, **PREACHED the GOSPEL to Abraham BEFOREHAND** saying, "**In YOU all the NATIONS shall be BLESSED.**" So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

- **Genesis 12:3** "I will _____ those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you; and in _____ all the _____ of the _____ shall be _____."
- **Titus 3:4-7** "But when the kindness and the _____ of _____ our Savior toward man appeared, _____ by _____ of righteousness which we have done, but according to His _____ He saved us, by the washing of regeneration (being born again) and renewing of the _____, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been _____ by His _____ we should become heirs according to the hope of _____."

Definition: "PREACHED the GOSPEL to Abraham BEFOREHAND" - "Gospel" means GOOD NEWS, and **the fact that "God would justify the nations by FAITH" in Jesus Christ** is truly good news! It is good news because it applies to ALL NATIONS, and not just the Jews. It is good news because we are justified and made right with God by our faith in Jesus Christ, and not by any system of religious "good works" or by trying to keep hundreds of commandments. When God said to Abraham, "**In YOU all the NATIONS of the earth shall be BLESSED,**" He was "preaching the gospel" to Abraham **beforehand - long before Jesus actually came to earth** and died for our sins, but Abraham understood what God was saying. Abraham knew God would be sending the Messiah as a sin-bearer to bear (take away) his sins, as well as the sins of everyone who would believe in Him. God said, "**In YOU" to Abraham,** because the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would be a physical descendant of Abraham, as well as salvation being by the FAITH of Abraham.

- **Mark 1:14-15** "Now after John was put in prison, _____ came to Galilee, _____ the _____ of the _____ of _____, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the _____ of _____ is at hand (near). Repent, and _____ in the _____.'"