

## The Faith of Abraham

Lesson 2  
Justified By A Believing Trusting  
Working Faith

## The Faith of Abraham

1. An obedient faith
2. Justified by a believing trusting working faith
3. Walking in a hoping growing faith
4. "if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants,"

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## An Obedient Faith

1. He believed to the point of obeying God's word
2. Although not flawless his obedient faith was ongoing
3. Faith without works is dead
4. We must have faith that obeys the gospel today

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## The Jews Trusted In Perfect Law Keeping Not God's Mercy

Luk 18:9 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

Luk 18:10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

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## The Jews Trusted In Perfect Law Keeping Not God's Mercy

Luk 18:11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

Luk 18:12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

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## The Jews Trusted In Perfect Law Keeping Not God's Mercy

Luk 18:13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

Luk 18:14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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Denominations Trust In The Sinner's Prayer  
Rejecting Baptism and Further Obedience

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

Rom 6:2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

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Denominations Trust In The Sinner's Prayer  
Rejecting Baptism and Further Obedience

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

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We Also Can Err Emphasizing Perfect  
Obedience Over God's Mercy

- We too can be guilty of making our "list" of things we must obey and trusting that we have checked off all things on the list
- We come to trust in being baptized, being a member of the Lord's church, worshipping and working according to His authority
- We can come to trust in our obedience rather than in a gracious and merciful God

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Justified By A Believing Trusting  
Working Faith

1. No one including Abraham can be justified by perfect law keeping
2. Abraham believed and trusted in the only just merciful God enough to obey Him
3. Abraham offered Isaac showing his trusting working faith in God
4. We must believe and trust in the only just merciful God enough to obey Him

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No One Including Abraham Can Be  
Justified By Perfect Law Keeping

- Like all of us, Abraham could never be justified (declared blameless) because of perfect law keeping
- Abraham, like all of us, was guilty of sin deserving condemnation before God
- Therefore, when Paul writes we cannot be justified by works, he means we cannot be cleared from guilt by perfect law keeping

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No One Including Abraham Can Be  
Justified By Perfect Law Keeping

Rom 3:19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

Rom 3:20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

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## No One Including Abraham Can Be Justified By Perfect Law Keeping

Rom 3:21 But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

Rom 3:22 even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

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## No One Including Abraham Can Be Justified By Perfect Law Keeping

Rom 4:1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?

Rom 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

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## Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

- If Abraham could not be justified by works, then why did his faith lead him to obey God?
- He believed and trusted in God to the point of obeying His conditions of pardon
- His obedience showed his trust in a gracious forgiving God
- He did not trust in his own obedience but in God (who commanded him to obey) to forgive him

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## Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Rom 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Rom 4:4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.

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## Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Rom 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

Rom 4:6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

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## Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Rom 4:7 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.

Rom 4:8 "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."

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Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only  
Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Psa 32:1 **A Psalm of David. A Maskil.**

How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

Psa 32:2 How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

Psa 32:3 When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long.

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Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only  
Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Psa 32:4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.

Selah.

Psa 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

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Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only  
Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Gal 3:6 Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Gal 3:7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

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Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only  
Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Gal 3:8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying*, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU."

Gal 3:9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

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Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only  
Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Gen 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Gen 12:4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

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Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only  
Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Gen 12:6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land.

Gen 12:7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

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Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only  
Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."

Gen 15:6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Gen 17:3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

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Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only  
Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Gen 18:24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep *it* away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it?"

Gen 18:25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"

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Abraham Believed And Trusted In The Only  
Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

Gen 24:27 He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers."

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## We Also Must Follow In The Steps of Abraham's Faith

Rom 4:9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Rom 4:10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised;

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## We Also Must Follow In The Steps of Abraham's Faith

Rom 4:11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,

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## We Also Must Follow In The Steps of Abraham's Faith

Rom 4:12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

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## Justified By A Believing Trusting Working Faith

1. No one including Abraham can be justified by perfect law keeping
2. Abraham believed and trusted in the only just merciful God enough to obey Him
3. Abraham offered Isaac showing his trusting working faith in God
4. We must believe and trust in the only just merciful God enough to obey Him

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## Justified By A Believing Trusting Working Faith

- Like us, Abraham was a sinner and could not receive forgiveness through perfect law keeping
- Although he could not be saved by works through perfect law keeping, he believed and trusted in a just, gracious and forgiving God to the point of obeying Him
- He did not trust in his own obedience but in God (who commanded him to obey) to forgive him

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## Justified By A Believing Trusting Working Faith

1. No one including Abraham can be justified by perfect law keeping
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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

- Since we cannot be justified by perfect law keeping, many have wrongly concluded obedience is not essential to saving faith
- But Abraham's faith trusted in God continually working to please God
- Although he could not earn his salvation, Abraham was justified by a working faith that trusted in a forgiving God
- Notice how his faith worked by offering his promised son Isaac

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Gen 22:1 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

Gen 22:2 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Gen 22:3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Gen 22:4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Gen 22:5 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you."

Gen 22:6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Gen 22:7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Gen 22:8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Gen 22:9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

Gen 22:10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Gen 22:11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

Gen 22:12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Gen 22:13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.

Gen 22:14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Gen 22:15 Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,

Gen 22:16 and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son,

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Gen 22:17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.

Gen 22:18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Gen 22:19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba.

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

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## Abraham Offered Isaac Showing His Trusting Working Faith In God

Jas 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.

Jas 2:24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

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## We Must Believe And Trust In The Only Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

- It is a shame that confusion comes over how we are to be justified (cleared from guilt) by faith today
- Many sincerely but wrongly insist that we are saved by the sinner's prayer excluding baptism for forgiveness of sins because they say it is a work of merit
- But to be justified by faith means we trust in a just merciful God enough to obey all of His terms of pardon

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## We Must Believe And Trust In The Only Just Merciful God Enough To Obey Him

- The forgiveness we receive is not earned but is an undeserved gift by His grace
- Jesus called faith the work of God
- In baptism, we believe and trust in God to forgive us through Jesus' blood
- After baptism, we continue to trust and obey a just and merciful God

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## Like Abraham We Must Be Justified By Faith

Rom 4:23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him,

Rom 4:24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,

Rom 4:25 *He* who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

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## Like Abraham We Must Be Justified By Faith

Rom 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Rom 3:25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This* was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

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## Like Abraham We Must Be Justified By Faith

Rom 3:26 for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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## Faith Is The Work of God We Must Do

Joh 6:28 Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith In Which We Trust God To Forgive Us

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith In Which We Trust God To Forgive Us

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

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## Baptism Is A Work of Faith In Which We Trust God To Forgive Us

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

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## By His Grace Our Faith Must Work Trusting In His Mercy

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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## By His Grace Our Faith Must Work Trusting In His Mercy

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

Tit 2:12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

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## By His Grace Our Faith Must Work Trusting In His Mercy

Tit 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

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## By His Grace Our Faith Must Work Trusting In His Mercy

Luk 17:10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done *only* that which we ought to have done.'"

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## By His Grace Our Faith Must Work Trusting In His Mercy

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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