

# Law: The Wrong Way for a Man to Be Justified

## Romans 04: 13–16

**1. *The unmistakable statement:***  
*The promise of the inheritance is not through the law but through faith*

**2. *The argument against the law's securing justification, salvation***

- a. Law voids faith and erases the hope of the promise
- b. Law brings wrath
- c. Law charges a person with sins that must be judged

**3. *The argument for faith***

- a. Faith brings grace
- b. Faith makes the promise sure, guarantees the promise
- c. Faith assures the promise for everyone:  
It is available to all

13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

14 For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless,

15 Because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring — not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

# Abraham: The Example of a Man Justified by Faith Alone

## Romans 04: 17–25

### 1. *The source of Abraham's faith*

- a. It was God Himself
- b. It was God who quickened, gave life to the dead
- c. It was God who created *out of nothing*

### 2. *The strength of Abraham's faith*

- a. His faith was in what God had said: The promise of a seed or offspring, a son
  - 1) He was not weak in faith — despite thinking about his own inability
  - 2) He was strong in faith — not wavering, but giving glory to God
  - 3) He was convinced of God's ability and God's power
- b. His faith was credited as righteousness

### 3. *The recording of Abraham's faith*

- a. That men might read
- b. That men might be counted righteous — by believing
  - 1) That God raised Jesus
  - 2) That Jesus died for our sins and was raised again for our justification

17 As it is written:

“I have made you a father of many nations.”  
He is our father in the sight of God,  
in whom he believed  
— the God who gives life to the dead  
and calls things that are not  
as though they were.

18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead — since he was about a hundred years old — and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

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

22 This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”

23 The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone,

24 But also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness — for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.