

Romans

- a. **Man has no righteousness apart from faith (1:18-3:20)**
- b. **Imputed Righteousness is of faith. (3:21-5:21)**
 - 1. **Faith righteousness is required by the nature of God and man (3:21-31)**
 - 2. **Faith righteousness is illustrated in Abraham. (4:1-25)**
 - a. **It was apart from his works. (4:1-8)**

Illustration #1 Abraham “faith was reckoned as righteousness”

“¹ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? “*And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.*”

Illustration #2 Wages “justifies the ungodly”

⁴ Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. ⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,

Illustration #3 David “sins don’t count”

⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing upon the man to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: ⁷ “*Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, And whose sins have been covered.* ⁸ *Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.*”

How are we to understand James 2:14-26 in light of Romans 4:1-8?

Principle #1

Faith without action is dead with respect to

our ministry.

¹⁴ **What use is it**, my brethren, **if a man says** he has faith, but he has no **works**? Can that faith **save** him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for {their} body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, {being} by itself.

Principle #2

Faith without action is dead with respect to

our witness.

¹⁸ But someone may {well} say, “You have faith, and I have works; **show me** your faith without the works, and **I will show you** my faith by my works.” ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works **is useless**?

Principle #3

Faith without action is dead with respect to

our identity.

²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 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. ²⁴ **You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.** ²⁵ And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For **just as the body without {the} spirit is dead**, so also faith without works is dead.



“And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,”

Genesis 15:6

Abraham is pronounced just by faith

Gen.15

Abraham’s faith is “perfected” and “fulfilled”

Gen.22

A private declaration

Paul’s point

A public display (offering Isaac)

James’ point