

Crossroads Baptist Church  
January 14, 2007 10:00  
Romans 4: 1-4  
Romans #17

## “Salvation Has to be of Faith”

The Christian church has long preached and stood strong on the principle that salvation was by faith; but we have not been as strong in preaching that salvation is by faith alone.

This simple word “alone” separates many a Christian men and even caused one of the great periods of history called the Reformation under Martin Luther.

Hebrews 11: 6 “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”  
Romans 1: 17 “The just shall live by faith.”

Paul uses Abraham and David, the two greatest figures in the Jewish heritage, to declare the message that faith apart from works is what justifies a sinner before God. This morning, we will look at the example of Abraham in Romans 4: 1-4.

### **I. Since salvation is by faith alone, then it means works never works.**

Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. He and Sarah had tried naturally to have a child without any success. Then they tried through Hagar and it was not God’s plan. What God wanted Abraham to see is that He did not need Abraham and Sarah’s assistance to carry out His plans.

God wanted them to see that they could not do what only He can do. Our works never fulfill the plans and purposes of God. What God promises, He will carry out.

### **II. Since salvation is by faith alone, it means all the glory goes to God.**

If the promise of God had been fulfilled through the works of Abraham, then Abraham would have had something of which to boast. But since it was not by works, then all the boasting goes to God.

When you go to work and work forty hours, at the end of the week you don’t think your employer is so nice and generous because they give you a paycheck. You don’t thank them over and over again for their generosity. You worked for that check and they are only doing what you deserve.

God will not share His glory with any man; thus the result of salvation has to be that God, and God alone, gets the glory!!  
In fact, boasting of ourselves is the very opposite of godliness.

Pride is the single thread that connects all our sin. It is that independence of God. So no self-boasting is allowed before God.

### **III. Since salvation is by faith alone, then it means anyone can be saved.**

Because the only requirement for salvation is faith, then anybody can be saved. The rich and poor alike; the young and old; the literate and illiterate; the blind and the seeing. No one can have an excuse that they don’t have what is necessary for salvation.

No one can say that they have not done a certain work; thus they can’t be saved. Neither can any one say that because they have done some particular thing; they can’t be saved.

Works (good or bad; done or omitted) do not save us.

### **IV. Since salvation is by faith alone, then it means you receive the reward of works.**

You’ve heard it said, “You can’t have your cake and eat it too.” Well, that persons does not understand salvation.

Our desire is to be righteous before God. We want to be pleasing to God. So, in our human means we try to do things that we think God will like or we try to be righteous in our own merits.

But when we hear of “faith alone” we might think that how can we be righteous like that? Well, Romans 4: 3 tells us. “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

The word “accounted” is a book keeping term meaning imputed. It depicts sin being transferred from our account and righteousness being transferred to our account. In other words, when we believe God with simple faith, then God transfers the righteousness (right deeds) of Jesus into our account. Then God looks at us as we had done everything righteous.

That’s have the reward of works without the works. That is having your cake and eating it too.

There are three ways to spell salvation:

- Don’t – don’t do this and don’t do that and you will be pleasing to God
- Do – do this and do that and you will be pleasing to God.
- Done – believe what Jesus has already done on the cross and you will be pleasing to God.