

Romans 4:9 - 12

To the Jew a man who was not circumcised was not a Jew…no matter what his parentage was.

The Jewish circumcision prayer went like this:

> ***"Blessed is he who sanctified his beloved from the womb, and put his ordinance upon his flesh, and sealed his offspring with the sign of the holy covenant."***
>
> ***The rabbinic ordinance goes like this:***
>
> ***"Ye shall not eat of the Passover unless the seal of Abraham be in your flesh."***

If a Gentile accepted the Jewish faith, he could not enter fully into it without three (3) things:

1. ***Baptism***
2. ***Sacrifice***
3. ***Circumcision***

In this passage Paul answers the objector's argument (the argument between himself):

> ***The Jewish objector:*** ***"Suppose I admit all that you say about Abraham and about the fact that it was his complete trust (faith) that gained him an entry into the right relationship with God, you will still have to agree that he was circumcised."***
>
> ***Paul's answer:***
>
> ***Abraham's call and of God's blessing on him (Genesis 15:6)***
> ***Abraham's circumcision is in Genesis 17:10-27.***
> ***Circumcision was not the gateway to his right relationship with God; it was only the sign and the seal that he had already entered into it.***
> ***Abraham being accounted righteous had nothing to do with circumcision and everything to do with his act of faith.***

Two (2) deductions from this passage:

1. ***Abraham is not the father of those who have been circumcised; he is the father of those who make the same act of faith in God as he made.***

2. ***A man may be a Jew of pure lineage and may be circumcised; and yet in the real sense may be no descendant of Abraham (spiritually speaking).***

A person has no right to call Abraham his father or to claim the promises of God, unless he makes that venture of faith that Abraham made.

Romans 4:13 - 25

Paul made it clear: "Everything that we do to get in a right relationship with God (spiritually speaking) is of grace."
Several points are very clear in this passage:

- ***God made a very great and wonderful promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:2,3)***
  Abraham would become a great nation
  In him all families of the earth would be blessed.
  The earth would be given to him as his inheritance…….
- ***The promise came to Abraham because of the faith that he showed towards God.***
- ***The promise did not come because he piled up merit by doing good works of the law.***
- ***The promise came because of the outgoing of God's generous grace in answer to Abraham's absolute faith.***
- ***The promise was dependent on two (2) things:***
  1. ***The free grace of God***
  2. ***The perfect faith of Abraham..faith required stepping out and going.***

Paul saw two (2) things that man believed at that time as to trying to get into the right relationship with God.

1. ***Dependence on human effort.***
   "Acquiring merit in the sight of God through doing works which the law prescribes."
2. ***Dependence of divine grace.***
   "Based on trusting God through His Son (Yeshua/Jesus) and believing that God raised Yeshua/Jesus from the dead…to new life being the first resurrection."

On one hand…there was the constant losing battle to obey an impossible law; on the other, there was the faith which simply takes God at His word.

Four (4) wonderful things about Paul's new way of being in the right relationship with God:

1. ***GOD'S PROMISE***
   Huposchesis = a promise entered into upon conditions

Epaggelia = a promise made out of the goodness of someone's heart…quite unconditionally.

2. ***FAITH… Staking everything on God's love and promises.***
3. ***GRACE … A gift of grace is always something unearned and undeserved.***
4. ***GOD CAN MAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE.***

Let's talk a little bit about the impossible becoming possible.

The Word says:

- ***"For Nothing is Impossible with God!" (Luke 1:37).***

Nothing means zero; not anything; that which does not exist; absence of something; in no degree; not at all.

- ***"….All things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)***

All means everything; as much as possible; the whole number or sum of; beyond all doubt; wholly or completely.

- ***"……..With God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)***

With God=to be on His side; having His promises; one of His own; wrapped in his arms and never let go!

- ***"…It impossible for God to lie…an unchangeable truth." (Hebrews 6:18 b)…..Read 6:13-20)***
  Lie is the opposite of truth…If God doesn't lie, then He is the truthful one who sent "the truth."
- ***"And without faith it is impossible to please God….." (Hebrews 11:6a)***
  Faith=fidelity to one's promise; trust; allegiance to duty; loyalty; complete confidence in someone or something.
- ***"……Everything is possible for him who believes." (Mark 9:23)***
  Everything=a lot; a bunch; a bunch to the fullest; running over without an end; every object, fact, whatever; all that pertains to the subject considered.
- ***"Nothing will be impossible for you….when you have faith.." (Matthew 17:20)***

Paul was a believer in the truth…He knew that faith in a trustworthy God and a risen Jesus was all that mattered. His main thrust of his message, "By grace are you saved, through faith, not of works lest any man should boast."

What is faith…and what makes impossibilities possibilities?
God's Word in us!

"…Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus (John 20:29)