HOW CAN A MAN BE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD?



(Romans 4:2 NIV) If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about--but not before God.

Its desirable to be like God

(Gen 3:5 NIV) "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Making god in our image

(Exo 20:4 NIV) "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

.

Man's Religion

- A god who exists to serve us
- A god who exists to make us happy
- A god who isn't in the picture
- A god would never send people to Hell
- A god whose hand is too short to save us



(Rom 3:12 NIV) All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

The Stumbling Stone

(Rom 9:32 NIV) Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone."

Point #1: No one enters heaven by their own merit_

Faith credited as righteousness

(Romans 4:5 NIV) However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

No boasting

(Eph 2:8-9 NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.

What is faith?

Romans 4:21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Some Religious Systems

- Some believe if your circumcised you are made right with God.
- Some believe if your baptized you are made right with God.
- Some believe if your belong to a certain religious system or church you are made right with God.

Not everyone trusts in God

(Mat 7:22-23 NIV) Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Faith before works

Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.

Whoever believes

(John 3:16 NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Point #2:

We are saved b the Grace of God through <u>faith</u>.

What is faith?

Romans 4:21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.



(James 2:14 NIV) What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

Our example: Abraham

(James 2:21-23 NIV) Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

Point #3: Faith leads to <u>action</u>.

The father of all who believe

Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.

By faith: He went

(Heb 11:8 NIV) By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

By faith: He had a son

(Heb 11:11 NIV) By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.

By faith: He offered a sacrifice

(Heb 11:17 NIV) By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,

Walk in Him: live it out

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving (Col 2:6-7 NIV).



- Walk in Him
- Rooted in Him
- Built up in Him
- Established in the Faith
- Abounding in the Faith

Does your life show Faith?

- Do your actions deny your belief in God?
- Do you go to God with your needs problems?
- Do you read His word for insight and direction?
- Do you gather together with other believers to worship and encouragement?
- Do you tell people about the Hope you have in Jesus Christ?

