

THE GOSPEL IS FAITH

ROMANS 4:1-25 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
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I must have faith in Christ to be forgiven (4:1-8), to be genuine (4:9-12), to receive the promise (4:13-25) which...

- ***makes me an heir (4:13-15)***
- ***raises me from the dead (4:16-17)***
- ***gives me hope (4:18-19)***
- ***strengthens my resolve (4:20-21)***
- ***binds me to all believers (4:22-24a)***
- ***rests in the power of the resurrection (4:24b-25)***

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Is faith in Jesus something that God gives us or do we have to work at, or is it both?
- How did you reach the conviction that Jesus is both Lord and Saviour of all?
(See Romans 10:17; Galatians 3:2 as you consider your response.)
- How should faith in God's forgiveness help you overcome the guilt, shame, and fear related to your sinful choices? What role does faith play in helping us overcome temptation to sin?
- How do 1 John 1:9 and 2 Cor. 7:10-11 describe the relationship between genuine repentance (with faith) and receiving God's forgiveness?

- Are we meant to have faith that God will provide blessing, or that God is good even if the blessing we seek doesn't come when or in the way we expect? Which kind of faith is Abraham an example of? Which kind of faith have you been an example of?
- Abraham and Sarah had to hope against hope when God promised them a child in their old age and infertility. What do you think it means to "*hope against hope*"? What led Abraham to express his faith this way? (Romans 4:20-21)

"Your cancer, the loss of a loved one, the financial struggles, the estranged relationships, the setbacks, the defeats, whatever it is, by virtue of your faith and the giving of glory of God strengthens your resolve as you wait for the promise to be fulfilled; no wavering, strong in your faith, fully convinced."

- What situation from your life requires you to express your faith as *hope, against hope*? As you conclude this passage from Romans, what new approach can you take to this situation as you wait on God to fulfill his promises to you?
- Before we leave this study, take one more look at Todd's list of implications related to having faith in Jesus. Which of these implications tends to have the greatest effect on your daily living? How you can tell?
- Which of the listed implications should you give greater attention to in light of your present struggles? What and/or would help you do this?