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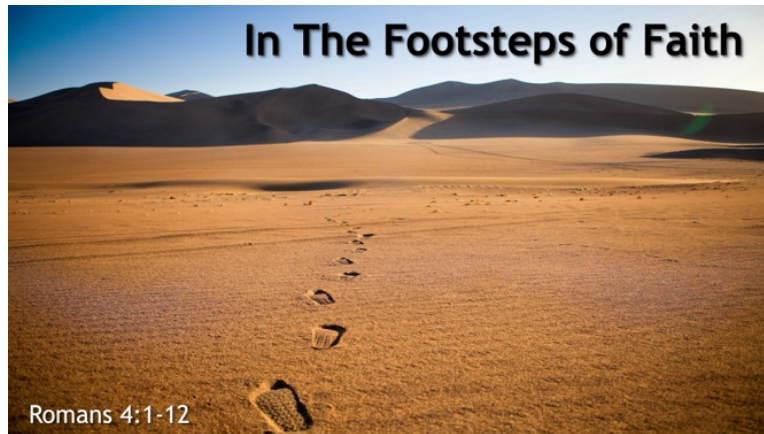
## “In The Footsteps of Faith”

*Romans 4:1-12*

Shawn Reese

**Call:** Ps 32:1-2, 11 (NIV)

**Scripture:** Eph 2:8-10 (NIV)



### Background

We enter Romans in chapter 4 where Paul spends the chapter discussing mostly Abraham, but also David. Mostly, he keeps Abraham in view throughout the chapter, and encourages all people, both Jew and Gentile, to follow in the footsteps of his faith.

Back in Genesis 12, God called Abraham and Sarah to follow Him. But, God’s goal in the call of these two ancient people is universal. He wants to bless the entire world through them. And, that’s one of the reasons Paul begins talking about Abraham in chapter 4 of Romans. His story applies to the diverse story of the Roman church, to all Jews and Gentiles.

### Sermon Text: Romans 4:1-12

1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? 2 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. 3 What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” 4 Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. 5 However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7 “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

*9 Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. 10 Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! 11 And he received circumcision as a sign, 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. 12 And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.*

## **Discussion Questions**

### Preparation

- A What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- B What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- C What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

### Sunday Questions:

1. What does it mean to be righteous-ized, to be a friend of God like Abraham?
2. Are you righteous-ized?
  - A. Are you saved?
  - B. Are you justified?
  - C. Are you redeemed?
  - D. Are you forgiven of all our sins?
  - E. Are you free from the power of Sin?
3. Who makes it happen (becoming righteous-ized)?
  - A. How?
  - B. Why?
4. Can we righteous-ize ourselves?
  - A. If yes, how?
  - B. If not, why?
5. What's our role on the journey to righteous-ification?
  - A. Make our own effort?
  - B. Follow God's plan of righteous-ification?
  - C. Are you the prodigal son or his elder brother?
6. How Then Shall We Live?
  - A. Sit tight and wait for Jesus to come back again? Or follow in the footsteps of the faith of Abraham?
  - B. Jump in and go to work using your talents? What's your talent?

### Bonus Questions

1. Can you share a time when your faith was tested? How did you respond, and what did you learn from that experience?
2. Why do you think Paul uses Abraham as an example? What aspects of Abraham's faith resonate with your own experiences?
3. What specific qualities of Abraham's faith do you admire? How can we apply those qualities in our own lives today?