

Romans: Living and Breathing the Gospel
Week 7: Faith that Works
Romans 4; Genesis 15

1. What does it mean to have “faith”? How do you think about faith? Is faith even something you should “think” about? Is faith “blind”?
2. Why does Paul bring up Abraham’s story? Read Genesis 15 for the backstory. What point is he making about how one is “justified”?
3. What does it mean to be a part of the “family” of God? What does Paul have to say about the importance of one’s spiritual family background?
4. What, according to Paul, are the essential beliefs? What are some non-essential beliefs that you have seen get in the way? How do you know the difference between what is essential and what is non-essential?
5. What, according to Paul, can we learn from Abraham’s example of faith? What causes you to “waver” in your faith?
6. How could each be an **obstacle** to growing in your own faith in Christ?
 - Your church and family background
 - Your moral performance
 - Your circumstances
 - Your emotions

Which area causes you the most struggle? What would it look like for you to transfer your trust to Christ in those areas? What spiritual habits and relationships would be helpful? *See the chart from last week, included below, for a diagnostic tool.*

7. What steps have you taken in 2021? How are you growing through these steps?
 - a. **Live and breathe the gospel**—What environments will you commit to in the new year to grow?
 - b. **Love your church family**—How will you use what you have been given to build up our church?
 - c. **Lead a friend to Jesus**—Who are you praying for? How will you become a better listener and make time for spiritual conversations? What risks do you need to take?

Boasting in Yourself vs. Boasting in Christ

	When I <i>boast</i> in my performance record	When I <i>boast</i> in Christ alone
Look in How do I see myself?	Turmoil & Anxiety “I’m not enough.” “I’m ashamed because I’ll never measure up.” “I can’t keep this up.” “I can’t rest.” “What if people see the real me?” “What if I fail?” “I’m worthless unless I achieve.” “My worth is in my achievement.”	Peace “I experience the joy of knowing that I am a child of God.” “I’m not dependent on praise.” “I’m not rocked by criticism.” “I genuinely believe that I haven’t really earned anything.”
Look around How do I see others?	Power & Comparison “I can never be as _____ as _____” “I have to stay ahead of _____” “I have to please _____ to get what I want.” “I give to get something in return.” “I have trouble receiving and giving hard feedback.” “I struggle to rejoice in the success of others.” “I’m afraid to let people see the real me.” “I live in constant frustration with others.”	Love “I believe that God is for me—even if others are against me.” “I can do for others without expecting anything in return.” “I can love my enemies with no ulterior motive.” “I care for the vulnerable, who will never be able to repay me.” “I’m not disappointed or frustrated when others don’t see the good I’ve done.”
Look ahead How do I see the future?	Fear “What if I lose _____?” “I worry about what I can’t control.”	Confidence “I’m focused on God’s kingdom, which is eternal, not mine, which is temporary.” “I genuinely believe that God will use my trials and pain for my ultimate good.”

