

Romans: The Gift of Righteousness part 4 | Grow Strong in Faith, Resting in God's Promises
| Romans 4:13-22

1. **THINK:** If you were an heir that actually deserved the inheritance, how would you act? In opposition to that, how does an heir act when he not only doesn't deserve the inheritance, but has done the very things that have warranted the Owner to disown him, yet still receives the inheritance? How does your response as an unworthy heir differ from that whom actually deserves the inheritance? How much hope would fill your heart if your inheritance were based upon your ability to earn it? **DO:** Share with others in the group how faith in the promise has impacted your life much more than faith in your behavior.
2. **THINK:** What good is a promise if it is not accompanied with faith? What good is faith if there is no promise to believe it? How do the two co-exist together? **DO:** What promises that you believe rule your day? Share those? What are the greatest promises that your life rises and falls on?
3. **THINK:** Why is there so much more security, hope and joy when the promise rests on grace and not the tangible activity of ourselves that seek to earn it? How is the unseen promise more full when it rests not on our own ability? **DO:** What aspects of God's character come to mind when you ponder these things regarding security, hope and joy? Share how these are important to you and how they encourage you to keep your eyes upward.
4. **THINK:** What does it do for you in terms of vision and understanding the magnitude of God's grace when you ponder that not only your sins were paid for, but the sins of all other believers that you know? What does it teach you about God's grace and mercy? Why do you think it is important to remember the breadth and depth of His mercy and grace that not only has landed on you, but others? **DO:** What response does that demand from you?
5. **THINK:** When it comes to your life, what has God brought to life that was not alive and that was dead? What is going on in your life right now where you have trouble believing that God can call life out of what is dead and non-existing? Do you trust Him for eternity? If so, does it make sense that you can trust Him for whatever else is happening in your life? **DO:** Give testimony of how this has already happened in your life at some point and share with others how God has already shown you this truth.
6. **THINK:** What is it in your life that tends to cause you to distrust God? Is it his track record for not coming through? Is it your track record for not living by faith? Is it your track record for not obeying? Is it the magnitude and consistency of tough circumstances? **DO:** Spend some time verbally or writing out God's track record

for being faithful to you? Isn't it easy to forget? Isn't it easy to remember what you're still waiting on instead of seeing the things that have been accomplished? Spend some time working hard on the list of ways God has been faithful.

7. **THINK:** How is your faith growing these days? What is producing an enriching, deepening faith? What circumstances has God wrought upon your life to bring you to a greater dependence on Him? Are you responding well to it or kicking against the goads? Do you think allow unbelief to make you waver (unlike what Abraham did)? **DO:** Repent and confess to the Lord your unbelief? Have you told Him how you struggle with unbelief? Have you ever cried "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief?" Spend some time connecting with your faithful Father.

8. **THINK:** What are you allowing in your life that steals faith from you? What influences, entertainment, activities, etc., and even people exist in your day that add nothing to increasing faith? What keeps you from being 'fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised? **DO:** Are you weary of getting what God has for you based on your own works? Do you see where that leads to your discouragement and lack of faith? Decide today that grace alone, working with faith accomplishes God's work in you.