

ROMANS

SAVING FAITH

WEEK 7 | DAVE D'ANGELO

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which of these – ritual, rules, or resume – do you have a tendency to lean on for righteous standing?
2. When you picture God – is He holding an invoice or a gift?
3. Is there evidence that your trust has indeed been transferred to God?

KEY POINTS

- Justification is by faith alone, not by works, rituals, or spiritual heritage, as illustrated through Abraham's life.
- Abraham was counted righteous before circumcision and centuries before the law, proving that faith, not religious practice, is the foundation of right standing with God.
- Every person tends to lean on one of three things in place of faith: rules, rituals, or a spiritual resume, and knowing your tendency reveals where the enemy may gain a foothold.
- The danger of focusing on the quantity of faith rather than the object of faith is that it can lead to having more faith in one's own belief than in Jesus Himself.
- God is the guarantor of the promise of salvation, meaning righteousness is placed upon us, not based upon us, just as a co-signer backs a loan regardless of the borrower's performance.
- Saving faith is a trust transfer, not merely intellectual agreement, and it always produces evidence in a person's life.
- Obedience is not how we earn salvation but how we become more fully persuaded of who God is, and resistance to obedience often comes from waiting to be convinced before acting.
- How a person views God -- whether He holds a bill or a gift -- directly shapes how they treat others, especially those they find difficult to love.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Romans 4:1-25

Genesis 12

Genesis 15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Dave identifies three tendencies people use to base their righteousness on, rules, rituals, or resume. Which of these three do you most naturally lean on, and how has that shaped your relationship with God?
2. Pastor Dave warns that having faith in faith itself can be just as dangerous as self-righteousness because it shifts our focus from Jesus to ourselves. In what ways might you be tempted to take pride in the strength or quantity of your faith rather than in the One your faith is placed upon?
3. Romans 4 highlights that Abraham believed against hope when every natural circumstance pointed toward impossibility, and Paul notes that his faith actually grew stronger through the process of trusting. Can you identify a current situation in your own life where God is inviting you to believe against hope?
4. Pastor Dave states that obedience is where persuasion comes, not the other way around, and that many people resist obeying God while waiting to be convinced first. What is one area of your life where you are waiting for certainty before obeying, and what would it look like to step out in faith there?
5. Paul's use of Abraham is intentional because Abraham was beloved and esteemed, yet Paul reframes his story to show that even this revered figure was justified not by his record but by faith. How does it affect your understanding of grace to know that Abraham's cowardice in Genesis 12 preceded the faith credited to him as righteousness in Genesis 15?

***TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION,** check out the additional Week Seven Discussion Guide under Small Group Materials in the North Way app under Romans.