

BAD NEWS, FAKE NEWS, GOOD NEWS

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March 4, 2018

The Power of Good News
Romans 4:9-25

Has news ever caused you to get up and do something?

What is faith?

- Faith – *pistis* (πίστις)--

Activating the Power of God’s Good News:

I. Faith

Romans 4:9-12 *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. ¹⁰Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! ¹¹And 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. ¹²And 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*

1. Faith connects _____
2. Faith connects _____

II. Faith

Romans 4:13-17 *It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.*

III. Faith

Romans 4:18-25 *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. ²⁰Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²²This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” ²³The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, ²⁴but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

Point:



Doggy Bag: Some questions to take home and chew on.

1. How would you describe what it means to have faith in Christ?
2. Has a longing to be part of a bigger story or purpose ever propelled you to seek God? How has faith given you a sense of belonging?
3. How have you experienced the power of grace in your life?
4. When did Christ become real to you—or what would it take for Christ to become real to you?
5. What is the source of your faith? Does your faith tend to rest in God’s promise, your circumstances, or something else?
6. In what area of life do you need to respond by placing your faith in Christ and living faithfully in Christ right now?

If you’d like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email krisbeckert@thevineva.org/ call 215.237.4959 to set up an appointment.