



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **VBS** – Vacation Bible School is coming, and we need **Adult Leaders**. Get more information and sign up on the App. Just click on the VBS graphic on the home page.

MY STORY

Share a trust fall experience you have had in your life?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Have A Volunteer Read: Romans 4:1-5, 1:16, 3:21-26; Genesis 16:6

Point #1: ABRAHAM: Faith trusts in God's righteousness, not my good works.

"We talked about this earlier. Every religion is based on this idea... I obey, therefore I'm accepted. Religions depict this in different ways, but it all comes down to the same thing. We work... and God or the gods... pay us or reward us for our obedience. Paul says there's a big problem with this idea. When we do good works to earn salvation from God, we don't do them because we love God. Ultimately, we do them because we love and worship ourselves. If I'm kind to you with the ulterior motive of earning eternal life, that has to mean I'm not really that concerned about being kind to you. My central motive is about me."
– **Michael Nolen**

What does the faith that saves look like, and how do you know if you have it?

Have you ever done anything with the expectation of getting something in return?

"The idea of faith is to place our weight on something. Lean on it. Tim Keller calls this a "trust transfer." You no longer depend on what you've done... your good works. You trust in what Jesus has done. It's not that you stop doing good works. It's that you stop trusting in those good works to earn your righteousness and eternal life. One of the most common illustrations of this is when we sit in a chair. When you stand, you're depending on your legs to hold you up. But in the moment you choose to sit down, you transfer

your trust from your legs to the chair. Your legs haven't stopped working. You've just transferred your trust to the chair. When you become a Christ-follower, you transfer trust for eternity from your own good works to Christ's perfect finished work on the cross. So have you truly transferred your trust to Jesus and his death for you?" – **Michael Nolen**

What does the faith "trust transfer" in your life look like?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 4:6-8; Micah 7:19; Isaiah 38:17; Psalm 103:12

Point #2: DAVID: Faith trusts God's promise to forgive all my sin.

"Paul turns his attention to David. He's being strategic here as well, for 2 reasons. First, David was Israel's greatest king, right behind Abraham in the pantheon of Jewish heroes. Second, David is the greatest example in the OT of a forgiven sinner. Do you remember what David had done? We talked about this story a couple weeks ago. He slept with one of his closest friend's wife and got her pregnant. He tried to cover it up by having his friend, whose name was Uriah, killed in battle. He then took Uriah's wife as his wife to make it look like she got pregnant after they were married. He then lied about it for a year. Nathan the prophet confronts David and when David finally confesses, Nathan told him that God forgave his sin. It's a beautiful story, as we saw, unless you're Uriah's mom. What do you say when David murdered your son and stole your son's wife? You say, "It's not that easy!" David knew that. He knew he'd done something worthy of death. – **Michael Nolen**

Does my faith in God include that he forgives all of my sins and all of other people's sin too?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 4:9-12; Genesis 15:6

Point #3: PAUL: Faith doesn't trust in any external ritual or activity.

"Paul asks if this blessing of forgiveness David wrote about is only for the circumcised, or is it also for the uncircumcised? Of course the Jewish people would have said it was only for the circumcised. Circumcision was the mark of membership in the Jewish nation for men and the wives and daughters they represented. It was like a passport that confirmed your citizenship. But Paul makes a very important point straight from the OT. Abraham received this righteousness by faith... while he was still uncircumcised. God doesn't want ritual without reality. He wants us to transfer our trust." – **Michael Nolen**

Why is it important to understand that our faith does not require trust in external rituals or activities in order to have a relationship with Jesus?

APPLICATION

Discuss with someone in your group any barriers you might have with a trust transfer.

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS