

DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 4:16-17
June 18, 2017

Continuing into Romans 4:16-21, Paul shows us the importance of justification by faith alone and the necessity of God's grace. Without His grace, we are helpless! It can be tempting to think that our salvation rests on how strong our faith is, but our faith rests on the power of God and his grace towards us. We especially see this truth in the life of Abraham.

1. In verse 16, Paul says the promise to Abraham must rest on grace. Grace is a free gift, and yet we often try to earn grace!

—What specific ways are we prone to try and earn God's grace?

—Share how you have seen God's grace working in your life recently.

2. This also shows us that regeneration comes before justification. God must graciously work in our hearts before we ever can exhibit faith.

—Do you find yourself trying to reverse regeneration and sanctification?

—How does this affect your thoughts about God? The way that you live?

—Discuss how seeing this truth should affect our daily lives? What spiritual fruit should our absolute dependence on God's initiating grace produce in us?

—How should it impact how we view other people, especially those we're tempted to judge or are irritated by?

3. If we are still tempted to think that Abraham or any of us should get credit for his faith, Paul reminds us in verse 17 that God is the one "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist".

—What ways do you find yourself trying to take credit for things God has done?

—If God alone is the one who gets credit for your existence and faith, how does this affect your daily life?