

# Study Questions: The Blessing of Justification by Faith

*Based on Romans 4:1-12*

## Personal Reflection & Application

**1. Doctrine vs. Blessing** Pastor Sam asked whether you think of justification by faith primarily as a doctrine to believe or a blessing to treasure. Honestly assess your own heart: How often do you find yourself experiencing genuine joy and gratitude for your justification? What practical steps could you take this week to move from merely believing this truth to actively savoring it?

**2. Walking in Abraham's Footsteps** Abraham turned from 75 years of idol worship to serve the living God. What modern "idols" (career success, relationships, comfort, approval) do you need to turn from to more fully trust God? How can you practically demonstrate faith like Abraham's in your current circumstances?

**3. Boasting vs. Humility** Paul emphasizes that works lead to sinful boasting before men, not justification before God. In what areas of your life are you tempted to find your worth in your performance or achievements rather than in Christ's righteousness? How should understanding justification by faith change the way you view your successes and failures?

## Relationships & Community

**4. Unity Across Differences** Romans 4:1-12 highlights that justification is available to all people regardless of ethnic or religious background. How does this truth challenge you to relate differently to people from other backgrounds, denominations, or social groups? What barriers might you need to break down in your relationships?

**5. Gracious Living** Since we all share the same standing before God through faith, how should this affect the way you handle conflicts, offer forgiveness, and show grace to others who have wronged you? Give specific examples of relationships where you could apply this principle.

## Faith Under Pressure

**6. Joy in Trials** Pastor Sam described how justified believers find "unquenchable joy amid life's darkest and hardest times." Think about a current struggle or past difficulty: How can remembering your justified status before God provide strength and perspective? What would it look like to "display this joy" even in hardship?

**7. Response to Personal Sin** When justified believers sin, they want God to restore their joy rather than earn their way back into His favor. How does this truth change your approach to confession, repentance, and restoration after you've failed? What's the difference between godly sorrow and worldly guilt?

## Defending Your Faith

**8. Answering Challenges** Given the trend of evangelicals converting to Roman Catholicism or Eastern Orthodoxy, how would you explain to a questioning friend why justification by faith alone is not "incomplete" or "reductionistic" but actually the fullest expression of God's grace? What are some specific arguments Paul used in establishing that justification is by grace alone, through faith alone, in the finished work of Christ alone found in Romans 3:21 – 4:12?

**9. Scripture as Authority** Paul's response to challenges was "What do the Scriptures say?" When facing difficult questions about faith or life decisions, how consistently do you turn to Scripture as your ultimate authority? What would change in your decision-making process if you truly made Scripture your final court of appeal?

## Living the Gospel Daily

**10. Transformative Gratitude** Pastor Sam gave us four blessings from Justification found in Romans 4:1-12: credited righteousness, forgiveness, freedom from guilt/shame, and restored relationship with God. Which of these four do you struggle most to internalize and live from? How could a deeper appreciation of this particular blessing change your daily attitudes, priorities, and interactions with others?

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*For group discussion: Share one insight from these questions that particularly challenged or encouraged you, and pray together for grace to live more fully from the reality of your justification by faith.*