

# SERMON NOTES

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**Date:** February 14, 2016

**Title:** Justification by Faith Not Works

**Text:** Romans 4:1-18

**Big Idea:** By following in the footsteps of Abraham's faith we can discover how we can truly become righteous in God's sight.

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## I. Introduction

- The story of *The Little Engine Who Could* is an example of the way many people approach God.
- Conventional Jewish wisdom in the New Testament taught that you could be justified simply by obedience to the Law. For many, Abraham was the supreme example of a man justified by good works.
- However, Paul teaches us in Romans 4 that Abraham is an example of one who was justified by faith not works (vs. 1-8), grace not law (vs. 9-17), and divine power not human effort (vs. 18-25).

## II. Three Reasons Why Justification Is By Faith Not Works

- A. Abraham had no reason to boast. (vs. 1-2)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. Abraham simply took God at His word. (v. 3)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. Only the ungodly will be justified. (vs. 4-8)

## III. Conclusion

Many people have the impression that their salvation hangs in the balance. They live their life in the hope that their good outweighs the bad. However, only way they can be saved is for God to forgive their sin and credit the righteousness of Jesus Christ to their account. Do you believe that? Do you have faith in God's promise to forgive and justify you? Will you take him at his word? Will you receive Christ as your Savior and Righteousness?

1. How does the story of *The Little Engine Who Could* exemplify the approach many people take toward their salvation?
2. Why didn't Abraham have a reason to boast before God? Why don't you?
3. Complete this sentence: "Faith is ..."
4. Read Hebrews 11:8-19. For what things did Abraham and Sarah believe God? How is their faith an example for you today?
5. What does a lack of faith reveal about your view of God?
6. Is there anything right now in your life where God is asking you to trust him? Is there anything that's keeping you from simply taking him at his word?