

The Lie of Productivity

Merry Ayres

July 19, 2020

The lie of productivity:
The more things I do, the better I am.

Romans 4: 1-3 (NIV)

“What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about - but not before God. What does scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Romans 4: 4-6 (NIV)

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

Romans 4: 7-8 (NIV)

Blessed are those whose transgressions
are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will
never count against them.”

Romans 4:13-15

“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. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.”

Romans 4: 16-18

“Therefore, *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...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.

Romans 4: 19-21

Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that this body was as good as dead - since he was about a hundred years old - and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Romans 4: 23-25

This is why it was credited to him as righteousness. The words it was credited to him were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness - for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

Now faith is confidence in God's promises and the assurance that he will do what he says he will do.

God's blueprint for
us is
FAITH

Faith for Pastor Jordan, Becca, and Jada is to adopt Alyssa into their family.

Faith for Pastor Jared and Jennifer is to invest time into the youth.

Faith for me is to give this message so I can share what God has put on my heart.

Faith for me is...
Because of this I hope for...

Productivity is the fluff.
Faith is the stuff.

Stop doing the fluff.
Focus on the stuff.