**“How can I be blessed?”**

Going deeper in Romans 4:6-16

**INTRODUCTION**

Paul has just demonstrated that according to the Scripture Abraham was justified (put in a right relationship with God) by faith alone (Genesis 15:6). He now turns to some of the implications of this.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 6 In the same way David describes the blessedness of humanity (the blessedness of trusting God is to put us in a right relationship with him) which God has made right apart from works: 7 “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the one who whose sin the Lord will never count against him.” {Psalm 32:1,2} 9 Do you think that this blessing is only for those who are circumcised as one of the Jewish insiders or could this blessing also be for outsiders who weren’t circumcised as an insider? We all know that Abraham’s faith put him in a right relationship with God. 10 Think about it. Was he declared in a right relationship with God by his faith before or after he was circumcised? That’s right, it was before. 11 That means he received circumcision as a sign of a right relationship with God that comes by faith so that he might become the father of all who believe without being circumcised so that righteousness might be given to them through faith alone. 12 He is also the father of those who have undergone the religious rite of circumcision not because of the ritual but because of their faith in what God had done for them. Just as Abraham lived, long before he was marked by circumcision. 13 It was not through the law that the famous promise was given to Abraham or his descendants {see Genesis 12:1-3). It was through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 For if only those who live by the law are the heirs of the blessing, then faith is meaningless and the promise is worthless (since no one can keep the law perfectly). 15 Accordingly the law just brings wrath and without the law we would not have known our transgression. 16 For this reason, the promise comes by faith in conjunction with grace so that the promise might be secure for all, not only those who are of the law, but also those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, not by heritage, but by faith.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What is the blessing that is spoken of in verses 6-9?

2. Who is this blessing for?

3. According to the Apostle Paul when did salvation by faith begin? Why is this important?

4. What does salvation by faith alone tell you about the character of God?

5. How can you be a blessing?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Tell the Lord how grateful you are that He has accepted you simply because you trust Him.

\*Ask the Lord Jesus to help you grow in your faith.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to make you a blessing this week.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

God is looking for humble believers who rely on Him for the fullness of life that God intended (the blessed life). How will you live out this humble faith this week?