



## *For Further Study*

Read and meditate on the passage below:

<sup>22</sup> This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup> The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (Romans 4:22-25)

These words come from Paul’s letter to the Romans, where he addressed the faith of Abraham. Abraham existed before the biblical account was written; all he had to go on was the intuitive nudging of God on his life. Urging him to leave his homeland and to go to an unknown place, trusting that he would have a son, and believing, even in his old age, that he would be the forefather of a nation, Abraham had to trust in the God who spoke to him.

Abraham trusted that what he believed God was revealing to him would actually come true; this took great faith. So, Paul explained that it was this faith that became Abraham’s credit. Much like in bookkeeping, a “credit” is something that shows revenue or assets. The asset that symbolized Abraham’s rightness with God was his faith in God to fulfill his promises.

Similarly, Paul says that our belief in Jesus serves as our credit. As God revealed himself over time, we have a better understanding of who he is and how he relates to us through the person, teaching, and lifestyle of Jesus. So, our belief is in a “seen” God who came to earth and died but also rose from the dead.

Paul says that Jesus died for our transgressions (paraptōmata). This refers to our betrayal and breach of relational commitment. Because of his death and his life, we can experience God’s fullness of life in this world and in the hereafter.

**PRACTICE:**  
Consider how you have betrayed God and confess your loyalty.

