

# FAITH REFINED

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM ME? (Romans 4:1-16) Talk-it-Over Notes | April 11-12, 2026

### REVIEW IT

In Romans 3:28, Paul **explains** that it is only by faith that we can have a right relationship to God. Now, in chapter 4, he uses the true-life **example** of Abraham to illustrate this important truth. “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” Romans 4:3

Big point #1: What does God want from me? God wants me to have **faith**.

In Greek, the word Faith is *pistis* (Πίστις) — Other forms of the word can be translated as...  
Trust, Faithfulness or fidelity, and belief

Big point #2: God wants me to know my faith is real. How do I learn if my faith is real?  
God proves our faith through...

1. **Testing:** What happens to me  
What is a test? An act of using something to find out if it is working correctly or how effective it is. Don't be surprised by tests. You will have trouble, but don't let your heart be troubled. Trust in Christ.
2. **Works:** What god is doing through me  
Faith is like love. If you truly love someone, you show it through your actions.

Big point #3: God is willing to help me with my faith to demonstrate his grace.

**Spend some time in the word:** Read Romans 4:1-16; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 John 3:17-18

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. If one of your friends asked you what it means to have faith, what would you tell them?
2. *“Faith means being sure of the things we hope for. And faith means knowing that something is real even if we do not see it. People who lived in the past became famous because of faith. It is by faith we understand that the whole world was made by God’s command. This means that what we see was made by something that cannot be seen.”* — Hebrews 11:1-3

How does your definition of faith agree with God’s definition in this passage?

3. Abraham was tested by God to see if his faith was real. What life events, trials or struggles have you experienced in your life that have tested your faith and proved it to be real?
4. Read James 2:20-23 (It’s on the sermon message notes). When you look at your life, what actions are you doing right now that give you confidence your faith is real?

### ACT ON IT

Read Mark 9:23-24. What is one specific area of your faith where you still struggle with unbelief? Pray specifically for faith to respond with trust, rather than relying on your own efforts, and look for ways to act in faith—whether that’s through a decision, a conversation, or by letting go of control in that area.

### PRAY ABOUT IT

Take time to ask how you can pray for and support one another in prayer. Then, close in prayer.