

2 by 4- Ain't No Bragging in Heaven! Focus on Grace! Romans 4: 1-5 * v.3;
James 2: 10

Olympians who are focused on the podium and the gold medal are focused individuals. They will not be distracted; they have an aim and a goal. As born again believers in Jesus Christ, we need to be focused. Without a focus circumstances will sideline us. Our circumstances may be valid concerns but as born again people we must remember this world is not our home, we are just passing through. Do we believe that or are we just speaking Christian-es? We can't travel anywhere on earth without a passport. As Christians the Bible is our passport. We won't go anywhere in Jesus without the contents of it. It is the air we breathe and our daily bread. We don't just carry it around; we ingest it. Do you carry your Bible or do you allow your Bible to carry you?

It's the difference between religious and relational. Jesus was a friend of sinners with the intention of becoming best friends. If you are just exploring God know that He died for your sins so that you could become best friends. Grace is what we need to understand if we want to move from exploring God to beginning with God.

We become God centred when we can look at anything we do and say, "God directed that."

3 words- Abraham **believed**, it was **accounted** to him for **righteousness**. Do the **exchange**. Regardless of who we are or what we do when we go before God we are "bare". We have nothing to offer Him is our sin; unless we have done the exchange. There are fundamentals in any sport; the fundamental focus of any spirit filled church is grace. Have we forgotten grace? If we are not founded on grace we will never flow or flourish. What is righteousness? **Romans 5:17** It is right standing before God. Can an ungodly person do a righteous deed? Yes. Can a godly person do an unrighteous deed? Yes. Does that change our position with God? No. We are not saved by works, we are saved to works and for works. We can't earn it, **Romans 3:10-12; 4:2,4; 9:30-32; 10:3-9** we can't be good enough to get to heaven **Is. 64:6**. All our actions may be righteous or unrighteous they are all the same before God unless we have exchanged them for Jesus' righteousness. If we are guilty of breaking one law, we are guilty of breaking them all. We can impress each other but we are bare before God, He knows it all. Have we done the exchange **John 3:16-17**? We don't have to die for our sins; we can exchange them for Jesus' righteousness and live. He has already died in our place. He has offered us grace instead of judgement. Our salvation is not guaranteed. We need to make the exchange, accept what He offers. May we understand that grace is not earned, it is freely offered, it is not achieved; it is received. We are saved 2 works and saved 4 works. What are we to do **John 6:28-29**? We are not only saved by grace but sustained by grace.