

Romans 4:1-12

Romans 4:11-12 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which *he had* being *yet* uncircumcised.

Abraham received the sign (or token) of circumcision which was a seal (verification, validation, authentication) of the righteousness of the faith **WHICH HE HAD** before he was circumcised. That is Abraham, through faith, had obtained the righteousness of God before the covenant of circumcision.

1. Faith comes first (Genesis 15:6)
2. Circumcision follows after (Genesis 17:1-14)

Because Abraham believed in God, and believed God's word, God gave him his righteousness. When God imputes righteousness to your account, several things occur. Your iniquities are forgiven! Your sins are covered! God doesn't assign your sins to you! You are blessed (Romans 4:6-8, Psalm 32:1-2)! Look at Romans 4:19-25. When you and I believed on God that raised Jesus from the dead, the righteousness of God that brings these blessings was imputed unto us as if it was our own.

Abraham had faith in the promises of God, and that saved him. So too when we have faith in the promises of God in Christ Jesus, it saves us (2 Corinthians 1:20). Now because Abraham believed God, God established a covenant with him, and that was the covenant of circumcision.

God speaks of circumcision as a token of the covenant God made with Abraham. This covenant had to do with the promised land, being a father of many nations, to bless him with multitudes of children, and to bless all the families of the earth through him. Circumcision was a sign between God and Abraham that the Covenant God made with him was so.

The Tokens in the Bible:

*Token means a sign; evidence of something

The Rainbow (Genesis 9:12-17)

Eternal Covenant between God and all flesh upon the earth. Signified God would destroy the earth again with water.

Circumcision (Genesis 17:1-14)

Covenant between Abraham and his seed. Signified all the promises that God made to him concerning the promised land, having a great name, having multitudes of children, being the father of many nations, and being a blessing to the whole world through his seed.

Mt. Sinai (Exodus 3:12)

Promise between God and Moses that he along with the nation of Israel would come back to the same mountain they were talking on. Signified that God was with Moses.

The Blood of the lamb (Exodus 12:13)

Promise between God and Israel. Signified that when God saw the blood of the lamb applied, their firstborn would not die. It was also to be a sign for them, so they wouldn't worry about their firstborn dying. Christian you don't have to worry about dying, and hell, and the wrath of God: the Blood of the Lamb is a token for you that you are safe!

Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17:10)

Promise between God and Israel. Signified that God called Aaron and not Korah and his sons nor anyone from the other tribes. It was to be a witness against the rebels and it was supposed to quite the murmurings and questionings.

Suffering for Christ's sake (Philippians 1:28-30)

Between God and the Christian. Signified that what they were going through was of God and it was a sign of their salvation. Notice the world looks at their suffering as evidence of destruction and not being right with God, God says, actually it is evidence there are things right.

Suffering for the Kingdom of God's sake (2 Thessalonians 1:5)

Between God and the Christian. Signified that God is righteous in his judgment even in the midst of persecution and tribulations, since God will render the same to those that trouble us. He does this that we might be found worthy of the Kingdom of God.

After Abraham believed, the token (or the sign) of circumcision was given, which was a seal (stamp of approval, validation) that he had the righteousness of God imputed unto him.

Sealed in the Bible:

That word "seal" can mean two things. It is most frequently used in the Bible as meaning "to prove the authenticity of something, to validate, to justify something." See Nehemiah 9:38, Esther 8:8, Daniel 9:24, John 3:30-33.

It is also can mean "to close up, protect, or secure something." See Song of Solomon 8:6, Isaiah 8:14-16, Daniel 12:4, Isaiah 29:11.

Jesus Christ is the man God the Father has sealed (John 6:27). How was Jesus approved authentic? By the signs, wonders, and miracles he performed; his resurrection from the dead by God the Father, the fulfilled prophecies, and the testimony of the Old Testament Scriptures. Also by the giving of the Spirit to those that believe on him and obey him.

The Bible says that God has sealed us (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:12-14, Ephesians 4:30). Compare Ephesians passages with Jeremiah 32:8-15, 37-44.

The 144,000 Jews sealed during the tribulation (Revelation 7:1-8). Do they have eternal security? Yes. Do we have eternal security? Yes!

After Abraham believed, the token (or the sign) of circumcision was given, which was a seal (stamp of approval, validation) that he had the righteousness of God imputed unto him. Just like Abraham after we believed God, the token of spiritual circumcision was given.

You know what is proof that we belong to Jesus Christ? The sign and token of the Holy Ghost indwelling us through spiritual circumcision. The Spirit is the token and that is the validation that we are sons of God (Romans 8:8-17)

Spiritual Circumcision:

Spiritual Circumcision occurred when you trusted Christ (Colossians 2:11, Hebrews 4:12).

We are the circumcision that worship God in spirit (Philippians 3:3, John 4:23-24). Its about the inward not the outward (Romans 2:28-29).

Who performs the spiritual circumcision?

Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:10)

When does it happen?

Just like faith came first, then the sign of circumcision, so faith MUST come first, and then the spiritual circumcision comes next. After you believed God you were sealed by the Holy Ghost (Ephesians 1:12-14).

What happens?

God severs your sinful flesh from your soul and spirit (Hebrews 4:12). God divides them. During this process you partake of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-11, Colossians 2:11-15, Ephesians 2:1-9, Titus 3:3-7).

Why does it happen?

That God may dwell in you through the Spirit PERMANENTLY (John 14:15-17, Ephesians 2:20-22), even though you live in a sinful body. But God has separated your flesh from your soul and spirit so the uncleanness of your flesh doesn't touch God! So if you sin, you break fellowship with God and grieve the Holy Spirit, but God still abides in you! He will never leave us nor forsake us the scripture says!

Praise God.