

**Introduction:**

- *“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”* (Hebrews 11:6, ESV)
- Pleasing God is something that I think the majority of believers think about at some point in their Christian life. Others think about pleasing God more often. He is so good to us that it naturally makes us want to please Him.
- Since our topic is about our faith pleasing God, it is only fitting that we start with a definition of faith.
  - The definition of faith is not new to us but it is critically important to us.
  - I.e. Like shooting a pistol you want to establish muscle memory so that you do not have to think about all the steps before pulling the trigger; you through reason of use naturally go there. Once established you have to go back and renew every so often.
- Tonight I want to look at what faith is and how to please God with it.

**I. What Is Faith?**

- A. *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* (Hebrews 11:1, ESV)
  1. *“NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].”* (Hebrews 11:1, AMP)
  2. Breakdown:
    - a) faith is the assurance...of things hoped for. Hope paints a future picture. Faith is confirmation I have that picture.
    - b) faith is the conviction/evidence...of things not seen. Faith is the proof, the reality,
    - c) Perception (AMP): the ability to observe by mental pictures. Amp: *“faith is perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.”* The greatest perception we could possibly have is that God is real! He exists!
  3. Something I heard Andrew Womack say that made sense to me.
    - a) Faith is a noun.
    - b) Believe is a verb.
    - c) God has given us each a measure of faith. What we do with that measure of faith is called belief. The disciples cast out demons but could not out of a little boy. Jesus told them it was because of their unbelief that they could not cast it out.
- B. As a believer, faith is not:
  1. emotions/feelings that overcome the world.
  2. rational thinking that overcomes the world.
  3. perception based on our five senses (taste, smell, touch, see, hear.)
  4. *“And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.”* (Mt 13:58, ESV)
  5. Yet! *“And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”* (1 Jn 5:4 ESV)

**II. What Is The Easiest Way To Please God?**

- A. Answer: Faith! Faith that God is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Two things to hang our faith on: One, God is! Two, He is a rewarder. Know that He is and we are to diligently seek Him, not casually look for Him.
1. People are always trying to work for God. Trying to work hard to please Him.
  2. But Jesus defined what our work is: *“Jesus answered them, **“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”**”* (John 6:29, ESV) Believe - verb, arorist active. If you are planning on working for God do what He says counts as good work...believe!
- B. Faith is the way to please God.
1. *“**And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**”* (Hebrews 11:6, ESV)
  2. According to this verse, we must operate in faith in order to please God. How many want to be pleasing to God? Of course, all of us!
  3. The greek word for please is (*euarestéō*) which means ‘to be well pleasing’, ‘acceptable’, ‘to take pleasure in, to walk as is well pleasing.’ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (p. 77). W.B. Eerdmans.
    - a) Ro 12:1-2 present your bodies holy and (acceptable)
    - b) Ro 14:18 *“**Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.**”* (Romans 14:18, ESV) It please God that we would serve His Son.
    - c) *“**Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.**”* (Colossians 3:20, ESV) Faith and obedience.
  4. Hebrews 11:5. *“**By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.**”* (Hebrews 11:5, ESV)
    - a) To be commended means that God testified of the pleasure that Enoch brought to Him. When God commends you that is a really good thing!
    - b) Commended comes from the greek word ‘marturion.’ Witness.
  5. Hebrews 11:4 Able more acceptable sacrifice. Was more pleasing to God!
- C. Other powerful examples:
1. The centurion: Centurion: *“**When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.**”* (Luke 7:9–10, ESV & Mt 8:10)
    - a) Jesus Marveled! Gr - Astonishment, admiration, and wonder! Jesus was quite excited about this man revelation of His/Jesus authority.
    - b) Faith that exercises its authority pleases God! It causes God to take pleasure in.
    - c) Turing to the crowd, He witnessed, that not even a Jew has had this kind of faith!
      - (1) Jesus lifted the man up in front of the crowd because of His faith!
  2. The Canaanite woman: *“**Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.**”* (Matthew 15:28, ESV) Your faith is great, your request is granted.
    - a) Again, Jesus is marveling over this woman’s faith. He is greatly pleased

- b) The Syrophonecian woman knows God exists - she has a revelation of Jesus as the Son of God.
- c) Faith that persistence (Overcomes obstacles) these two things pleased God!

### III. How Can I Please God

A. Know Him! Know that He exists.

1. Heb 11:6 in order to draw near you must believe He exists.
2. This begins in the Word. Ro 10:17 *Faith come by hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ.*
3. Spend time with Him in prayer (with extended listening times.)

B. Exercise the authority that He has given your.

C. Be bold and step out. Our faith demonstrates our trust in God and in His promises, bringing pleasure to His heart.

1. "If you look at the wind and waves you will not see God. But if you look at God you will not see wind and waves." Tim Franklin.
2. "If you look at the wind and the waves you will see your demise. But if you look at God you are destined to rise!" Tim Franklin.
3. Each of us has a unique purpose and calling in life. To fulfill this calling, we need faith. We need ever increasing faith.

### Conclusion:

- "The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5, ESV)
- In a world filled with uncertainty, may we anchor our faith in the One who is unchanging, always faithful, and eternally loving."