

Faith that moves Mountains
Part 3 Faith pleases God!
Hebrews 11:4-6

I. Does our faith affect our relationship with God?

- Read Hebrews 11:6
- In this verse we see two major thoughts that are being communicated
 - Point one-The person that comes to God must believe that He is (exist).
 - Romans 1:18-20
 - Genesis 1-2 and the creation account are essential to faith.
 - Point two-The person that comes to God must believe that He rewards those that diligently seek Him.
 - This word Diligently means to seek out or to try and find something
 - It also means to follow Him and His teachings
 - Matthew 7:7-8, Proverbs 8:17, Jeremiah 29:13, and II Chronicles 7:14
 - Big point- Without faith it would be impossible to believe God exist and that He rewards those who seek Him.
 - Therefore a person without faith cannot please God
- What does it mean not to please God?
 - In short it means the following
 - A person without faith will not be acceptable to God
 - A person without faith will not be accepted by God
 - A person without faith will not live with God in this life or the life to come
 - A person without faith will rely on themselves for whatever they need or want in this life.
 - The sad reality of a life lived without faith in Christ is that there will be no advocate for them when this life is over.
 - They will stand before God, without excuse, as stated in Romans 1:20
 - They will be separated from God for eternity. Matthew 25:41 and 46

II. Are there biblical examples of a faith that pleases God?

- If it is impossible to please God without faith are there good biblical examples that would help us understand what God is looking for?
- Read Hebrews 11:4
- In this verse of scripture we see our first example of faith that pleases God!
 - Hebrews 11:4 describes two brothers and their relationship with God. Cain and Able
 - Read Genesis 4:1-10
 - In Genesis 4:4-5 we read that God had respect unto Abel's offering, but unto Cain's offering He had no respect.
 - What was the condition of the offerings?
 - First we must understand the word offering.
 - This is the Hebrew word "Mincah" which was used to describe a general type of offering.
 - This was not a specific offering that was for sin. It could be a meat offering or a grain offering.
 - Why was Abel's offering acceptable while Cain's offering was not?
 - I feel that the answer simply lies in the very topic that we are studying in this series "Faith"
 - Read Hebrews 11:4 By "faith" Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice!
 - The attitude in which Abel offered this sacrifice was just as important as the sacrifice itself
 - Abel offered this sacrifice by faith in God, not faith in his own abilities and efforts.
 - The attitude that Cain demonstrated is still obvious in our society today.
 - Cain's attitude represents those who feel they will please God by their works.
 - This is what God says about our righteousness. Isaiah 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean [thing], and all our righteousnesses [are] as **filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."
- Read Hebrews 11:5
- In this verse of scripture we see our second example of faith that pleases God!
 - Hebrews 11:5 describes the faith of a man by the name of Enoch.
 - His name is used 12 times in 11 verses throughout the entire bible
 - What was it about the faith of Enoch that pleased God?
 - Read Genesis 5:22-24
 - The picture of Enoch's walk was that of continuous forward progress in his relationship with God.
 - Enoch's walk with God was so special that he literally did not taste death
 - In Genesis 5:24 we read "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."
 - What an awesome picture of the relationship God desires between a sinful man and His holy nature.
 - We can actually have a faith that allows us to walk that close to God.
 - It is that type of faith that pleases God!
 - What a picture for those of us who walk by faith today of what the rapture will be like!

