

## Fundamentals of the Gospel – A Faith That Pleases Heb. 11:6

*Thesis: To help us understand the importance of having faith in God.*

### Introduction:

- A. Faith has always been important to God.
  - 1. The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that “without faith it is impossible to please Him.”
  - 2. We cannot be pleasing to God if we do not have faith in Him.
- B. The writer also tells us what kind of faith we must have in God.

### I. To be pleasing to God, we “must believe that He is.”

#### A. We must believe that God has always existed.

- 1. Long before the creation of the world, God existed.
  - a. **Ps. 90:2** - *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*
  - b. **Jn. 17:5** (Jesus’ prayer to the Father before He is crucified) - *And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*
  - c. **I Pet. 1:20** - Jesus “was foreordained *before the foundation of the world*, but was manifest in these last times for you
  - d. The point is that before the world was created, God existed.
- 2. Part of believing in His existence is believing the fact that God created the world.
  - a. **Heb. 11:3** - *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*
  - b. **Gen. 1:1** - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
- 3. God continues to exist to this day.
  - a. We “must believe that He is” (**Heb. 11:6**).
  - b. We have to know that God still exist.

#### B. We also need to understand that Jesus, the Son of God, has always existed.

- 1. Christ was in the beginning with God.
  - a. **Jn. 1:1-3** - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was in the beginning with God. {3} All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*
  - b. **Gen. 1:26** - Then God said, “Let *Us* make man in *Our* image, according to *Our* likeness”

2. **Heb. 1:1-4** (The writer of the book of Hebrews has gone to great lengths to show the greatness of Christ) - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, {2} has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; {3} who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, {4} having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

## II. To be pleasing to God, we must believe “that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

### A. God physically rewarded those who diligently sought Him.

1. As you notice the examples that are listed in this chapter, you see the physical blessings that God gave to His people.
  - a. Abraham had great possessions (**Gen. 13:6**).
  - b. Joseph was second in command of Egypt.
  - c. Moses “eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished” (**Deut. 34:7**).
2. God always promised to bless Israel physically if they were faithful to Him.
  - a. **Lev. 26:3-9** (God speaking to the people) - If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, {4} then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. {5} Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. {6} I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. {7} You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. {8} Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. {9} For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you.
  - b. God wanted to bless Israel physically.
3. Today, God promises to reward us physically when we are faithful to Him.
  - a. **Mt. 6:33** - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
  - b. **Mt. 7:7-11** - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. {8} For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it

will be opened. {9} Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? {10} Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? {11} If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

**B. A home in heaven is the ultimate reward that God will give people of faith.**

1. A home in heaven is what we should all desire.
  - a. **Heb. 11:13-16** - These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. {14} For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. {15} And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. {16} But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.
  - b. **Rom. 8:16-17** - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, {17} and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.
  - c. **Rom. 8:28** - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
2. This home in heaven comes through Christ.
  - a. **Heb. 5:9** - And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,
  - b. **Heb. 9:15** - And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.
  - c. **Heb. 12:2** - Christ is "the author and finisher of our faith."
3. There will be nothing greater than to spend our eternity with the Father.

**III. If we believe that God exist, and if we believe that He will reward those who seek Him, then we will be active in our faith.**

**A. In the examples that the writer gives, we see the actions of those who had great faith.**

1. **Heb. 11:4** - By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.
2. Enoch
  - a. **Heb. 11:5** - By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- b. **Gen. 5:22** (More details about Enoch) - After he begot Methuselah, **Enoch walked with God** three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.
3. **Heb. 11:7** - By faith **Noah**, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, **moved** with godly fear, **prepared an ark** for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.
4. **Heb. 11:8-12** - By faith **Abraham obeyed** when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he **went out**, not knowing where he was going. {9} By faith he **dwelt** in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; {10} for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. {11} By faith **Sarah** herself also **received strength to conceive seed**, and **she bore** a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. {12} Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude-- innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.
5. **Heb. 11:17-19** - By faith **Abraham**, when he was tested, **offered up Isaac**, and he who had received the promises **offered** up his only begotten son, {18} of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," {19} concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.
6. **Heb. 11:20** - By faith **Isaac blessed** Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.
7. **Heb. 11:21** - By faith **Jacob**, when he was dying, **blessed** each of the sons of Joseph, and **worshiped**, leaning on the top of his staff.
8. **Heb. 11:22** - By faith **Joseph**, when he was dying, **made mention** of the departure of the children of Israel, and **gave instructions** concerning his bones.
9. **Heb. 11:23** - By faith **Moses**, when he was born, **was hidden** three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.
10. **Heb. 11:24-28** - By faith **Moses**, when he became of age, **refused** to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, {25} **choosing** rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, {26} **esteeming** the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. {27} By faith he **forsook** Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he **endured** as seeing Him who is invisible. {28} By faith he **kept** the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.
11. **Heb. 11:29** - By faith **they passed** through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.
12. **Heb. 11:30** - By faith the **walls of Jericho fell down** after they were **encircled** for seven days.

13. **Heb. 11:31** - By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.
14. **Heb. 11:32-38** - And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: {33} who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, {34} quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. {35} Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. {36} Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. {37} They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—{38} of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.
15. It is important to note that these individuals of faith did not earn their reward.
  - a. They did not deserve to go to heaven.
  - b. However, by their faith, they were obedient to the calling that they had been given.

**B. Today, we must understand that faith requires action.**

1. We cannot say that we have faith if we do not act upon that faith.
  - a. **Js. 2:19** - You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe-- and tremble!
  - b. It is not enough to simply believe in God.
2. Faith requires action.
  - a. **Js. 2:14-18** - What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? {15} If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, {16} and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? {17} Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. {18} But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
  - b. **Js. 2:26** - For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

**Conclusion:**

- A. To have a faith that pleases God, we must:
  1. Believe that He is.
  2. Believe that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
  3. Be active in our faith.
- B. Today, do you have a faith that pleases God?