

Faith Pleases God

From: Overcoming the Overwhelming:
A 40-Day Journey toward Rediscovering Faith in God

Taken from Day 17: Pleasing God
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Faith pleases God. Yes, that's right. We can please God simply by believing in Him. When returning to this truth, my husband and I saw this as too good to be true. He prayed, "God, I wish You were really this good!" I personally thought at first that I was being led down a road of deception (and some of our friends thought we were off our rockers, too). Could it really be so wonderfully simple that what God really wanted from us wasn't performing the long list of "spiritual disciplines" we'd collected, but rather to just believe in Him?

Let's look at the verse again in order to extract more of its glorious goodness.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, AND that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

We not only believe that He exists but also that He rewards those who seek Him. (We'll discuss the word "diligently" in the next chapter.) Let me restate the obvious:

God wants us to believe that He rewards those who seek Him.

Many of us used to pray because we saw prayer as a requirement and a means of remaining close to God and even as a way to get *closer* to Him. Over time, we lost the idea that He would actually answer our prayers. As David and I began to break free from the false teachings that entombed us for so long, this simple truth stunned me. God **answers** prayers. Otherwise, why pray? Indeed! What did all the time I put into praying accomplish? From

my warped perspective, answered prayer wasn't the point. The act of praying had become the focus. As my eyes began to open once again, I returned to praying with the understanding that God would reward me—answer my prayers. So amazing was it to me, that I wrote this song to express my joy.

Just a Little Time with Jesus

*I'd been frustrated and condemned for years
By the rules and laws of man
That taught the only way God will hear
Is on my knees and at six a.m.
I would try with all my might
To perform this awesome task,
Trying to stay awake
Thinking this was doing as He asked.
When for weakness or by circumstance
I could not this law fulfill,
I would think that He was angry
And my life out of His will.*

*So I started to pray all day
Doing dishes or in my car
Trying to find my way
Back to the desire of my heart.
To my amazement, He met me there,
And my spirit He set free.
Now, I'm thanking you, my Father,
For this precious liberty.*

*There are troubles we cannot share
With even the dearest friends.
There are burdens that we bear
That seem to never end.
When we come to God in prayer
For one minute or for an hour,
His Spirit meets us there
Giving wisdom and giving power.*

*It's so amazing what God will do
When we take the time to pray,*

*And just a little time with Jesus
Goes a long, long way.*

God rewards those who seek Him, and it should be pointed out that a reward is a good thing. He wants us to believe this, and believing this pleases Him. He isn't concerned about how long our prayers are. He doesn't answer them based on how spiritually disciplined we've been lately, as if we accumulate His grace by what we do. (Now, that is a twisted thought!) He doesn't refuse to answer them because we've had a bad attitude lately or aren't living up to some expectation we or someone else has placed on us. As Vincent puts it, "He who approaches God has, through faith, the assurance that his seeking God will result in good to Himself." We pray because He answers.

When we face impossible situations, how much more we need to believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him with good. No, we don't deserve it. That's the point. It is our faith that God sees. It is our faith in Him and our trust in His goodness toward us that pleases Him.

Romans 4:1-5

*What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham **believed** God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." ⁴Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. ⁵But to him who does not work but **believes on Him** who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.*

