



## Lesson 48

### Lesson 48: What Is Faith? (Part 4) Pleasing God

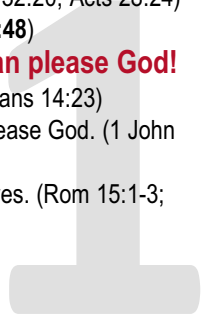
**Scripture:** Hebrews 11:6

#### An Outline of the Life of Faith (vv. 4-7)

- (v. 4) The faith of Abel – the beginning of faith – how to approach and worship God.
- (vv. 5-6) The faith of Enoch – “walking in newness of life” (Romans 6:4, 19; Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 John 2:6)
- (vv. 6-7) The faith of Noah – “obedience” and “witness” for God.
- The **order** of faith is absolute. It cannot be **re-ordered!**
  - Unless one approaches God **first** through the blood sacrifice of the Lamb there can be know “walking” or “fellowship” with God.
  - Unless one is walking with God none of his works or witnessing will be pleasing to God.

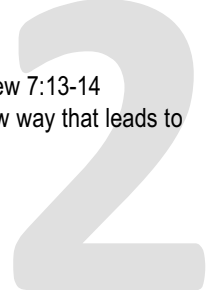
#### Pleasing God (v. 6)

- Without FAITH it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to please God! It **cannot** be done!
- How can a sinner **please** God?
- (Romans 8:8) Those who are in the **flesh cannot** (have no ability) to please God! **WHY?**
- (Romans 8:7) Because the carnal mind (unsaved mind) **is** enmity towards God!
- Why is the carnal mind enmity toward God? == Because there is NO FAITH.
- Where there is no faith NOTHING can please God!
- Everyone does NOT have faith. (2 Thessalonians 3:2; Deut. 32:20; Acts 28:24)
- Faith is a **GIFT**. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Philipians 1:29; **Acts 13:48**)
- **ONLY what originated in GOD and from GOD can please God!**
- **EVERYTHING** not done by FAITH or in FAITH is SIN! (Romans 14:23)
- Answer to prayer comes because we do those things that please God. (1 John 3:22)
- Christ is our example of living to please God and not ourselves. (Rom 15:1-3; John 8:29)
- Only those who **live** by faith please God.



## Coming to God (Hebrews 11:6)

- (John 14:6) **NO ONE** can come to the Father **except** through Christ.
- (John 6:44; 65) **NO ONE** can come to Christ unless the Father **draws** (see John 18:10; Acts 21:30; John 21:6; James 2:6)
- **First**, Jesus says, “**NO MAN** can come to Me.” **Universal negative**.
- **Second**, Jesus say, “No man **CAN** come to Me.” **Total Inability**. (Romans 5:6)
  - God is ACTIVE. Man is PASSIVE.
  - The verb is in the SUBJUNCTIVE mood – possibility – “except” is the key word.
- ★ It is not in man to come to Jesus Christ, because at the fall:
  - ① Man’s heart was estranged from God.
  - ② Man’s understanding (mind) was darkened.
  - ③ Man’s will was *enslaved* to sin.
- ★ To say that man has the *power* within himself to either reject or accept Christ, is to *repudiate* the fact that he is a captive of the Devil, and to say that there is *at least one good thing* in the flesh. (Romans 7:18)
- ★ **Man’s only hope lies outside of himself, in Divine help.**
- **Third**, Jesus says, “. . . except the Father **DRAW** him.”
  - ☞ John uses this word in John 18:10; 21:6, 11
  - ☞ NT usage: James 2:6; Acts 16:19; 21:30
  - ☞ OT usage: Judges 4:7; Hosea 11:4; Jeremiah 31:3
  - ★ Psalm 65:4
  - ★ ALL Greek usages signify RESISTANCE to the POWER drawing **and** triumph of the drawing power.
- **What, then, is this “drawing”?**
  - ☞ It is the *power* of the Holy Spirit overcoming self-righteousness.
  - ☞ It is the *power* of the Holy Spirit convincing the sinner of his absolute lost condition.
  - ☞ It is the Holy Spirit *awakening* him to a sense of real need.
  - ☞ It is the *power* of the Holy Spirit *overcoming* pride of the natural man.
  - ☞ It is the *power* of the Holy Spirit that causes the sinner to come to Christ as an empty-handed beggar.
  - ☞ It is the Holy Spirit *creating* within the sinner a hunger for the bread of life.
- See Psalm 65:4.
- There is a threefold of “coming” to God:
  - ① Initial – conversion – entering the narrow gate. Matthew 7:13-14
  - ② Continuous – sanctification – walking along the narrow way that leads to life (God). Hebrews 6:11-12
  - ③ Final – glorification – at death. 1 John 3:2-3



## **Believe that He Is** (Hebrews 11:6)

- The first step in FAITH is believing God and in God.
- **BUT** one must believe that He is who He says He is not who we *think* He is.
- **THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE!** If you do not believe who He says He is then you **DO NOT** believe that He is! You *really* believe in a **DIFFERENT** God.

## **He Is A Rewarder** (Hebrews 11:6)

- What reward are we talking about?
  - Genesis 15:1 – “I am your GREAT reward!” (See **Hebrews 8:10**)
  - Hebrews 11:26 – Moses accepted the “reproaches of Christ” a greater reward than the riches of Egypt (the world).
  - Matthew 5:12 (Luke 6:35) – Standing for Christ in the midst of persecution leads to a great reward in heaven!
  - Colossians 3:24 – Heaven is our reward – our inheritance.
- **THINK ABOUT THIS** — God rewards those who seek Him, **but** He is the **REVENGER** on those who do not seek, or deny, or forget Him. (Psalm 9:17)

## **Who Does God Reward?** (Hebrews 11:6)

- **ONLY** those who **diligently** seek Him! To **diligently** seek God means:
  - ① Seek Him early . . . (Proverbs 8:17)
  - ② Seek Him with one’s whole heart . . . (Psalm 119:10; Jeremiah 29:13; Deuteronomy 30:10; Acts 8:37; 2 Chronicles 15:15)
  - ③ Seek Him earnestly . . . having **ONE** desire. (Psalm 27:4)
  - ④ Seek Him without giving up. (Luke 11:8; Hebrews 12:1)
- **GOD’S PROMISE:** All those who **SEEK** will **FIND!** (Matthew 7:7-8)

