

What does it mean, “To Please God”.

Hebrews 11:6 “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*”

A. The only way to please God is through faith.

1. Enoch may have had the greatest of faith, because God blessed him so greatly.

Genesis 5:24 “*And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*”

a. The blessing to God was Enoch's walk in His will, Spirit, and faith, it is believed that Enoch had a complete walk of faith in God.

b. **Hebrews 11:5** “*By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*” By faith Enoch pleased God in his earthly walk.

c. Enoch must have had an entire self-surrender to God. Everything in his life must have been dedicated only to God and God's will and purpose.

d. Now, this faith was given, because we are all born sinners and at enmity toward God. **1 Corinthians 15:57** “*But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

e. But none the less, it was the blessing of strong faith that he please God. He took God's gift and grace. (as the Apostle Paul did, “*but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*” V. 10 So did Enoch)

2. No matter what man does in life, it will never be pleasing to God without, God given faith and a strong exercise of that strong faith.

3. It is through this faith that God blesses us, and the stronger the faith the stronger is God's blessings.

B. What about lost people? (People without faith).

1. God said, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him...*” Heb. 11:6a

2. Our faith in God is only through Jesus Christ. Therefore, God said, “*So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*” Romans 8:8

- a. Why not? Verse 7 explains this, *“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”*
 - b. The word “enmity” means – to be hostility; by implication a reason for opposition – toward God. Or to have no faith in God.
 - c. The word “subject” means -obedience to- meaning by nature they will never surrender or submit themselves to God’s will or law, unless God saves them.
3. God, through the Apostle Paul reminds us in **Romans 7:19** *“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.”* Even in a spiritual state, if it were not for God’s power and grace, our natural man remains opposition to God. The war within takes God’s grace for victory.
 4. Lost people have no such war because their dead to God’s law, grace, and righteousness.
 5. Therefore, as Christians we see what a battle, we must inwardly fight to please God which takes a stronger fight of faith. Therefore, Paul wrote, *“Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.”* Romans 7:20
 6. Therefore, Paul also recognized this in 1 Cor. 15:10c *“...I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”* God gave me the necessary grace to have strong enough faith to abound in pleasing God.
 7. This is the full explanation as to why lost people will never, please God.
- C. This is why we can accomplish all things if our faith is strong enough.
1. Jesus said, **Matthew 21:21** *“Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.”*
 - a. How many of us truly believe this?
 - b. Can you cast a mountain into the sea?
 - c. If not, then your faith is not strong enough!
 2. The faith we have is God’s gift, the stronger our gift of faith the stronger we are. If God, supplied us the faith to remove a mountain and throw it into the sea, then it could be done. Our faith is as strong only as God gives,

3. Without the grace of God, there is no faith at all, not even enough to believe on Jesus as our Saviour. **John 6:29** “*Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.***”

D. This is why without faith we cannot please God.

1. Without faith, there is no living spirit in us, and without a living spirit, then God’s Spirit is not in us. **Romans 8:5** “*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*”
2. Faith is a mind-setter; God sets our mind by faith to do His will and please Him.
 - a. If flesh set our mind, it is at enmity with God, but if the Spirit sets our mind, it is of faith. “*that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh*” The fleshly nature exercises the mind or gives it, it’s power.
 - b. In the Christian, spiritually speaking the Holy Spirit exercises our mind.
 - c. However, even as Christians we can only accomplish the work of God, if powered by the Spirit. “*...but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*” that is the Holy Spirit.
3. **Jeremiah 13:23** “*Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.*”
 - a. Why is it when we are saved do, we not have a perfect walk, why do we not have enough faith to remove mountains, why do we not 100% please God?
 - b. Because we cannot change what we are, sinners saved by grace. We must understand that every purpose and accomplishment as Christians are a by grace.
4. Only our faith allows us to please God.
 - a. If our faith was strong enough, we would be a perfect son. **John 8:29** “*And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*” Jesus had 100% faith in His Father. Why He was God, He was also the Son of Mary. But no sinful flesh!
 - b. We are the children of our mothers, but also the sinful children of our fathers. And the children of flesh therefore the children born sinners.
 - c. Adopted children of God, cleansed by Jesus, and awaiting perfection.
5. Therefore, we must want to, pray for enough grace, and have enough faith, to walk worthy of the Lord. **Colossians 1:10 - 13** “*That ye might walk worthy of the Lord*

*unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; (11) **Strengthened with all might**, according to **his glorious power**, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; (12) **Giving thanks** unto the Father, which **hath made us meet** to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: (13) **Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness**, and hath **translated us** into the kingdom of his dear Son:”*