

Faith: A Life Pleasing to God

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Hebrews 11:6.

B. Faith is contrasted by fear, which draws us back. Faith draws us forward. (Hebrews 10:38)

C. Suffering is part of the life of faith.

II. It takes faith to please God. (Luke 18:8)

A. Faith celebrates now the reality of future blessings to come. (Hebrew 11:1, Psalm 39:7)

1. The discipline of faith is waiting. (Psalm 130:5-6)

2. The foundation of faith is God's Word. (Romans 10:17)

3. Faith is evidence of what is not seen. (II Corinthians 5:7)

B. Faith is a way of living. (Hebrews 11:5, Hebrews 10:38, Galatians 3:11, Romans 1:17, Habakkuk 2:4, Matthew 4:4)

1. We take the Word and "eat it." (Jeremiah 15:16)

2. We meditate on it. (Psalm 1:2-3)

3. We apply the Word and it becomes a part of us.

4. We are to make decisions with God. (James 1:5, Proverbs 15:2)

C. Principles of faith. (Hebrews 11:8-19)

1. Faith is a response of obedience to God's Word. (James 2:17, Proverbs 14:12)

2. Faith is an attitude and an act of trust. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

a. Trust is to deposit what one cares about with another person. (I Peter 5:7)

b. Trust is an act of casting cares.

c. Experiencing God is experiencing God's love. (I John 4:1)

3. Faith is rooted in the promises of God. (II Corinthians 1:20, Psalm 23)

4. Faith is tested. (Romans 4:21, I Peter 1:6-7)

5. Faith empowers us to make the right choice in temptation.

III. Praise enhances our faith. Praise gives us a new perspective from which to view life.

IV. Faith begins with believing that God is and that there is a reward for which is worth waiting.

Application questions:

1. What important elements would you choose to emphasize in explaining faith to another person?

2. What role does God's Word play in faith?

3. How is a current area of obedience or disobedience in your life an expression of your faith? Explain.
