

Dear Friends,

March, 2024

Recently several people have asked about "having faith?". Then someone else shared a conversation with a person who declared "that if I can't see it - it doesn't exist!". Others say, "I'm not much of a person of faith. I am more of a practical person!" So with these questions I studied the Book of Hebrews to improve my understand of faith in God.

First, we need to understand **Faith Pleases God!**

Hebrews 11:6 says; 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.

Our relationship with God is largely determined by our faith. When we come to Him, we must believe that He exists and that He is exactly who He has revealed Himself to be in Scriptures. It is important to believe that He will respond to us when we earnestly seek Him. Without this kind of faith, we cannot please God. You may say, "I love God, but I just have difficulty trusting Him." Then your Faith is weak because our faith must be at the core of our relationship with God in order to enjoy fellowship with Him! I believe faith grows as we study the Bible and this gives us growing confidence that God is real!

Faith does not eliminate problems. Faith keeps us in a trusting relationship with God in the midst of our problems. Faith has to do with our relationship with God, and may not change our circumstances. " Yet we will never do anything more practical than to place our trust in the Lord!

Again in Hebrews 11:32 -34; For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, Others in Chapter 11 suffered greatly and yet kept their faith in God!

Hebrews 11:39-40 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

They all believed in God never having seen the life of Jesus that was yet to come. Their examples should encourage us to grow in faith as trouble for us Christians grows in our world today.

Debi and I are managing to be faithful to God as growing older continues to complicate the everyday life we live here on Earth. I have noticed at Alpha that problems among Christians seem to be more complicated as this world declines in faith in God!

Thank you for your prayers and giving to Alpha! Your prayers have been answered and we have seen an increase in Alpha's income recently. Again thank you for all you make possible at Alpha 😊

Richard.

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