

## What Pleases God: Faith

Ponder: What sort of faith pleases God?

Scripture: “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” (Heb. 11:6, NKJV).

Jesus said He always did those things that pleased the Father (John 8:29). As disciples of Jesus, we ought to strive to please the Father just as Jesus did.

By stating that we cannot please God without faith, the Hebrews writer implied that faith is something that pleases God. But what sort of faith would that be? The world mocks the very idea of faith. Perhaps you’ve heard skeptics chattering, “Faith is believing something even though you know it isn’t true.” That makes an excellent sound bite, but it’s as wrong as wrong can be!

Earlier the Hebrews writer said, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1, ESV). Don’t fall for the old cliché, “seeing is believing!” You confidently trust in many things you can’t see. When you flip the light switch, you trust that there really are electrons, and that they will cause the bulb to emit light. You have never seen an electron. They’re awfully small, and they move at 186,000 miles per second, making it difficult to focus on one zooming past you! But you trust that electrons exist because you have reliable evidence.

Christians also have reliable evidence for our faith. The creation itself more than amply proves God’s existence. “His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made” (Rom. 1:20). Likewise, our confidence in the Bible rests on solid evidence. Jesus Himself gave His approval to the Old Testament. And the eye-witnesses of Jesus went to their deaths rather than deny Christ and His gospel; their testimony is reliable!

The remainder of Hebrews 11 shows that the faith that pleases God is faith that produces obedience. By faith Abel offered (v. 4); by faith Noah moved and prepared (v. 7). And on it goes! Truly, “faith without works is dead” (James 2:20). May each of us strive for a living, obedient faith that pleases God!

Song: “Trust and Obey”

Prayer: Faithful Father, we praise You for revealing Yourself through Your creation and Your word. Help us to trust you and obey Your will. In Jesus’ name, Amen.