



Pleasing God!

Trusting In God's Love For Us

Part 6 – August 5, 2018

Mark 10 ²⁷ Looking at them, Jesus said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." NASU

Mark 9 ²³ And Jesus said to him, " 'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes." NASU

2 Corinthians 5 ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight — ⁸ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. ⁹ Therefore we also **have as our ambition**, (*"aim"* – NKJV; *"passion"* – TPT; *"goal"* – NLT) whether at home or absent, to **be pleasing to Him**. NASU

Hebrews 11 ¹ Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen. ² This **testimony of faith is what previous generations were commended for**. TPT

1 John 4 ¹⁶ And we know (understand, recognize, are conscious of, by observation and by experience) and **believe (adhere to and put faith in and rely on) the love God cherishes for us. God is love**, and he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in God, and God dwells and continues in him. AMP

Psalms 37 ³ Keep trusting in the Lord and do what is right in his eyes. **Fix your heart on the promises of God** and you will be secure, feasting on his faithfulness. ⁴ **Make God the utmost delight and pleasure of your life, and he will provide for you what you desire the most**. TPT

Hebrews 11 ⁸ **Faith motivated Abraham** to obey God's call and leave the familiar to discover the territory he was destined to inherit from God. So he left with only a promise and without even knowing ahead of time where he was going, Abraham stepped out in faith. ⁹ He lived by faith as an immigrant in his promised land as though it belonged to someone else. He journeyed through the land living in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were persuaded that they were also co-heirs of the same promise. ¹⁰ His eyes of faith were set on the city with unshakable foundations, whose architect and builder is God himself. ¹¹ **Sarah's faith** embraced the miracle power to conceive even though she was barren and was past the age of childbearing, for the authority of her faith rested in the One who made the promise, and she tapped into his faithfulness. ¹² In fact, so many children were subsequently fathered by this aged man of faith—one who was as good as dead, that he now has offspring as innumerable as the sand on the seashore and as the stars in the sky! ¹³ **These heroes all died still clinging to their faith**, not even receiving all that had been promised them. But they saw beyond the horizon the fulfillment of their promises and gladly embraced it from afar. They all lived their lives on earth as those who belonged to another realm, ¹⁴ For clearly, those who live this way are longing for the appearing of a heavenly city. ¹⁵ And if their hearts were still remembering what they left behind, they would have found an opportunity to go back. ¹⁶ But they couldn't turn back for their hearts were fixed on what was far greater, that is, the heavenly realm! So because of this God is not ashamed in any way to be called their God, for he has prepared a heavenly city for them. ¹⁷ Faith operated powerfully in Abraham for when he was put to the test he offered up Isaac. Even though he received God's promises of descendants, he was willing to offer up his only son! ¹⁸ For God had promised, "Through

your son Isaac your lineage will carry on your name.”¹⁹ Abraham’s faith made it logical to him that God could raise Isaac from the dead, and symbolically, that’s exactly what happened.²⁰ The power of faith prompted **Isaac** to impart a blessing to his sons, Jacob and Esau, concerning their prophetic destinies.²¹ **Jacob** worshiped in faith’s reality at the end of his life, and leaning upon his staff he imparted a prophetic blessing upon each of Joseph’s sons.²² Faith inspired **Joseph** and opened his eyes to see into the future, for as he was dying he prophesied about the exodus of Israel out of Egypt, and gave instructions that his bones were to be taken from Egypt with them.²³ Faith prompted the parents of Moses at his birth to hide him for three months, because they realized their child was exceptional and *they* refused to be afraid of the king’s edict.²⁴ Faith enabled **Moses** to choose God’s will, for although he was raised as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, he refused to make that his identity,²⁵ choosing instead to suffer mistreatment with the people of God. Moses preferred faith’s certainty above the momentary enjoyment of sin’s pleasures.²⁶ He found his true wealth in suffering abuse for being anointed, more than in anything the world could offer him, for his eyes looked with wonder not on the immediate, but on the ultimate—faith’s great reward!²⁷ Holding faith’s promise Moses abandoned Egypt and had no fear of Pharaoh’s rage because he persisted in faith as if he had seen God who is unseen.²⁸ Faith stirred Moses to perform the rite of Passover and sprinkle lamb’s blood, to prevent the destroyer from harming their firstborn.²⁹ Faith opened the way for the Hebrews to cross the Red Sea as if on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried to cross they were swallowed up and drowned!³⁰ Faith pulled down **Jericho’s** walls after the people marched around them for seven days!³¹ Faith provided a way of escape for **Rahab** the prostitute, avoiding the destruction of the unbelievers, because she received the Hebrew spies in peace.³² And what more could I say to convince you? For there is not enough time to tell you of the faith of **Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets**.³³ Through faith’s power they conquered kingdoms and established true justice. Their faith fastened onto their promises and pulled them into reality! It was faith that shut the mouth of lions,³⁴ put out the power of raging fire, and caused many to escape certain death by the sword. In their weakness their faith imparted power to make them strong! Faith sparked courage within them and they became mighty warriors in battle, pulling armies from another realm into battle array.³⁵ Faith-filled women saw their dead children raised in resurrection power. Yet it was faith that enabled others to endure great atrocities. They were stretched out on the wheel and tortured, and didn’t deny their faith in order to be freed, because they longed for a more honorable and glorious resurrection!³⁶ Others were mocked and experienced the most severe beating with whips; they were in chains and imprisoned.³⁷ Some of these faith champions were brutally killed by stoning, being sawn in two or slaughtered by the sword. These lived in faith as they went about wearing goatskins and sheepskins for clothing. They lost everything they possessed, they endured great afflictions, and they were cruelly mistreated.³⁸ They wandered the earth living in the desert wilderness, in caves, on barren mountains and in holes in the earth. Truly, the world was not even worthy of them, not realizing who they were.³⁹ **These were the true heroes, commended for their faith**, yet they lived in hope without receiving the fullness of what was promised them.⁴⁰ But now **God has invited us to live in something better than what they had**—faith’s fullness! This is so that they could be brought to finished perfection alongside of us.^{12:1} As for us, **we have all of these great witnesses who encircle us like clouds**. So we must let go of every wound that has pierced us and the sin we so easily fall into. Then we will be able to run life’s marathon race with passion and determination, for the path has been already marked out before us.² We look away from the natural realm and we fasten our gaze onto **Jesus** who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith’s perfection. His example is this: Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God! TPT