

Beaverton Foursquare  
Sunday A.M. 10/23/16  
Faith (Part 1)  
10/23/16

## Faith Is...

This will be a short study series on a very important topic...Faith!  
We will learn what faith is and how we can be people of faith. Next to "love", faith is the most dominate subject in the scriptures.

So let's just enjoy a scriptural barrage of scriptures on faith to get us started:

*"The only thing that counts **is faith** expressing itself through love."  
(Galatians 5:6b)*

*"Now these three things remain: **Faith**, hope and love..."  
(I Corinthians 13)*

*"The righteous will live **by faith**." (Romans 1:17)*

*"...and everything that does not come **from faith** is sin."  
(Romans 14:23)*

*"However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find **faith** on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)*

*"This is the victory that has overcome the world, **even our faith**."  
(I John 5:4-5)*

*"Then he touched their eyes and said, "**According to your faith** will it be done to you." (Matthew 9:29)*

*"For it is by grace **through faith** that you have been saved."  
(Ephesians 2:8)*

*"In him and through **faith in him** we may approach God with freedom and confidence." (Ephesians 3:12)*

*"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the*

*“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms **in Christ Jesus**” (Ephesians 2:6)*

*“I am crucified with Christ, none the less I live and this life I now live I **live by faith** in the Son of God.” (Galatians 2:32)*

*“And Jesus said, ‘**have faith in God.**’ (Mark 11:22)*

Everyone has faith; we all place our faith in something. Even an atheist has faith in his or her own intellectual reasoning. We come to one conclusion after reading the above scriptures that faith not only matters but also vitally important in our lives and our relationship with God.

So this brings us to two questions:

- How many of us studying this today want to please God more than anything else?
- Secondly and possibly more difficult, how many of us in this moment believe God is pleased with you?

It is very interesting (and will kick off our study) that at the baptism of Jesus, before he had done anything hears a voice from heaven declaring God’s pleasure with Jesus.

So what does it mean to be a “God pleaser”? It is much different from being a “people pleaser”, which many times will involve dishonesty, pressure to preform or doing things to just fit in, continually trying to please the other person not even taking into account if their demands are reasonable.

Many times in our desire to be a “God pleaser” we worry about being rejected, worrying about our failures and walking on eggshells. So let’s look what it looks like to walk in faith and please God.

### • **Faith is...how we please God**

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)*

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...” (Ephesians 2:8)*

**“Faith isn’t what saves you...Jesus does. The object of our faith is what saves...it matters where you place your trust”**

**“Faith is more than belief, it involves trust and reliance”**

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**“Faith is more than belief, it involves trust and reliance”**

“*Faith*” in the original language *Pístis* (πίστις, εως, ή) carries with it the idea of faith, belief and trust. To have faith in God is to trust him; we have confidence and hopefulness.

*“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.” (Hebrews 11:1-2)*

*<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)*

We have been saved through God’s grace and provision. God is pleased with you because he is pleased with Jesus. This focuses on your status in Christ, through God’s grace. As he goes we go, because our lives are in Christ.

He didn’t withhold anything from us, so we shouldn’t withhold anything from him. Like a wedding, where the husband and wife say, “I do”, we are “all in” holding nothing back.

The “Ancients” were commended for this.

### **• Faith is...rooted in discontent**

*“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for...” (Hebrews 11:1)*

This letter was written to a group of people who were being persecuted severely. They were experiencing hardship even to the point of losing all their possessions and their lives. So the question for them may be a question you have faced, “am I going to continue to trust God”?

This “discontent” was a *longing* for something that hadn’t been experienced or received yet. It was a longing for something better, there is always more with God. It is a looking forward with hopefulness anticipating eternal things, because we’re not home yet.

We want to be like the Apostle Paul, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”*.

### **• Faith is...looking forward**

*“...and assurance about what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)*

Today, people who live this way are not celebrated by our society. Most people are pre-conditioned to believe only what we can see. But in reality the eternal things of God is a greater reality.

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*“Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. <sup>33</sup> Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. <sup>34</sup> You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. <sup>35</sup> So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.*

*<sup>36</sup> You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. <sup>37</sup> For,*

*“In just a little while,  
he who is coming will come  
and will not delay.”*

*<sup>38</sup> And,*

*“But my righteous one will live by faith.  
And I take no pleasure  
in the one who shrinks back.”*

*<sup>39</sup> But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.” (Hebrews 10:32-39)*

## • Faith is...handed down to us from the ancients

*“This is what the ancients were commended for.” (Hebrews 11:2)*

The Ancients believed in something even though they hadn't received it yet. This is the faith that they were commended for. They are like a cloud of witnesses cheering us on as we put our faith and trust in God.

## Discussion Questions

- 1) Looking at the scriptures listed in your notes on pages 1 & 2, what are some of the things that strike you about “faith” in this small sampling?
- 2) Along with the listed scriptures Randy posed two questions for us to consider: How many of us studying this today want to please God more than anything else?  
Secondly and possibly more difficult, how many of us in this moment believe God is pleased with you?
- 3) We learned that faith is...how we please God. Looking back at your notes on page 3, what does this mean to you?

• What is the difference between being a “God pleaser” and a

- 4) What is the difference between being a “God pleaser” and a “people pleaser”?
- 5) How do you feel about the phrase, “Faith is...rooted in discontent”, have you experienced that “longing” for something you haven’t received yet? (See page 4)
- 6) For your faith walk are you “looking forward”, at times do you just believe what you can see? Lastly describe this faith that the Ancients were commended for, (Hebrews 11) and what does it mean to you that this faith was handed down to you from the ancients? (Hebrews 12)