

ST. JOHN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

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WHAT WE BELIEVE

Series Subject:

What We Believe About Faith (8/13/2020)

THE DEMAND FOR FAITH (8/13/2020)

Hebrews 11: 6... “But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

Today, my sisters and my brothers, let's conclude with a look at verse number 6...Hebrews 11---not only a pillar passage in the epistle to the Hebrew Christians; but is also a pillar passage in the infallible Word of God! Let's look, therefore, at **A DEMAND OF FAITH**.

- 1) This text teaches spiritual truths that touch the spiritual life of every believer.
- 2) It is one of the most eloquent and enlightening expressions of faith in the entire Bible.
- 3) Faith is the disposition, which should be characteristic of every created being in relationship with his or her Creator.

Let's look, then, at three things in this one verse---1) **The Great Impossibility**, 2) **The Great Imperative** and 3) **The Great Impact**.

I. Let's look, then, first of all, at THE GREAT IMPOSSIBILITY.

1. The first portion of the passage---KJV---reads

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)”

2. The verse opens, then, with **the Great Impossibility**.

3. It does not present something that is just very hard or even very improbable. No, it presents the impossible. Here it is---“it is impossible to please God apart from faith”. Don't even think about it! It cannot be done!

- A. The use of the Greek aorist tense marks the absolute impossibility of a person pleasing God in any other way than by faith!

B. In other words, faith is the prerequisite for a pleasing life before God---faith is not only desired...faith is **demande**!

C. Faith is the indispensable ingredient for pleasing God. Faith is trustful reliance and finds expression in willing obedience.

a. Remember that God honors faith because faith honors God!

b. Faith gives God His place, which is first place, and gives God His glory, which belongs to God alone.

c. Faith wills what God wills. Faith is an absolute requirement. Faith is the common denominator of Christian life.

d. All of the heroes and heroines of faith received God's commendation for their faith and proved that it is impossible to please God without it! And so goes **the Great Impossibility!**

II. But then, let's look, secondly at THE GREAT IMPERATIVE. Listen, then, to the second portion of Hebrews 11:6---KJV---"for he that cometh to God must believe that He is". The N.I.V. reads---"for anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists". The English Standard Version reads---"for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists."

A. That word 'must' is the Greek word dei and

speaks of that which is necessary, is compulsory, and is mandatory.

B. And so, here in this passage in Hebrews---the

word, **must**---speaks of **the Great Imperative**. The person, who **comes to God**, who **draws near to God**, who **approaches God**, **must** believe that **He is!**

C. He is... Whom? That He **is** God! He is...what?

That He is all that He says He is! Faith begins by grasping this one great, basic, essential fact: there is the true and living God!

D. The Bible does not begin by seeking to prove

that God **is**---but simply and sublimely states it as an incontrovertible fact: "In the beginning God"...(Genesis 1:1).

1) Throughout the whole of Scripture the existence

of God is never a matter of doubt or debate.

2) It always starts from assurance, never from

uncertainty.

3) God is not a metaphysical concept for questioning

and discussion.

4) God is the supreme reality and the Foundation

and Source of all created being.

5) Whoever would come to God must believe---must

have faith---that He is---because faith must have an object and God is the supreme and eternal Object of faith.

{Science cannot prove God, but science gives overwhelming evidence of a master Designer and Sustainer, which roles could only be filled by God. Like science, reason cannot prove God. But also like science, reason gives a great deal of evidence for God. Mankind himself is personal, conscious, rational, creative, and volitional. It is therefore inconceivable that mankind could have become so by accident or that mankind's Creator could be anything less than personal, conscious, rational, creative and volitional. To think that personal, thinking, decision-making beings could somehow have developed from slime to amoeba and on up the evolutionary chain is ludicrous, ridiculous and just plain stupid}.

6) But with all the many natural, scientific, and

rational evidences of God available; **acknowledging** God is still a matter of faith.

7) It is still **the Great Imperative**---**must** believe that **He is!**

III. And this brings us to the final facet and fact--to THE GREAT IMPACT. Listen, then, to the final portion of Hebrews 11:6---KJV---"and that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

1. One must not only believe that **He is**...but go on to believing that **He is a Rewarder of all who seek Him!**

2. **The Great Impact** of such belief is that it sets us up to seek God out for our own good!

3. The knowledge and acceptance that **God is**...opens the door for immediate and immeasurable **impact** as a person of faith.

A. In other words, believing that **God is**---carries

with it great reward!

B. James 2: 19 says---"You believe that there is one God; you do well: the demons also believe that and tremble." Yes, even demons *believe in God's existence*...but they do not believe to the point of trusting their very lives to Him.

C. They accept His existence but reject His Lordship!

a. But genuine believers believe to the point of

trusting our very lives to God!

b. God's beneficent will and attitude toward the seekers are not always apparent at the first approach.

c. In such cases there is occasion for faith. And

so, persistent seeking---diligent seeking---will find its reward!

a) We believe that God is beneficent and gracious

and loving and rewarding and reaches out eagerly to help and reward those who seek Him.

b) We believe and are living proof that God has a divine reward for all who seek Him.

c) We believe that God rewards us with Himself---first of all and most of all!

d) We believe that God rewards us with His infinite and eternal presence and power and provisions and protection.

[God rewards those who seek Him---not those who seek His rewards. Jesus said it like this---"*But seek ye first the kingdom of God*---that is...*seek to make God King in and over your life*---*seek His Person and His Presence* "*and all these things*"---*all these presents and provisions* ---"*will be added unto you.*"]

***Therefore, let's allow **the presence of God** to be our one desire, **the will of God** to be our one choice, **the help of God** to be our one trust and **the likeness to God** to be our one hope. **He is the Rewarder!**