

How You Can Please God

International Bible Lesson

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6 & Psalms 46:1-3, 8-11

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“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” (Hebrews 11:6—KJV).

“No one can please God without faith, for whoever comes to God must have faith that God exists and rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6—GNB).

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6—NRSV).

Everyone should ask themselves, “Do I want to please God?” If the answer is “Yes,” then they need to ask, “How do I please God?” The Bible teaches that “without faith it is impossible to please God.” To please God, people must begin with faith that God exists. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made” (Romans 1:20). Believing that God exists is easy, because “what can be known about God is plain” (Romans 1:19). “Without faith it is impossible to please God,” because God knows that unbelievers “suppress the truth” and have “exchanged the truth about God for a lie” (Romans 1:18, 25).

Still, some people struggle to believe that God exists. In order to overcome their disbelief, they can act on the teaching that God “rewards those who seek him.” Indeed, God promised, “When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13). God has revealed His existence, character, and nature, so plainly in the Bible and in creation that no wonder Paul wrote that unbelievers “are without excuse” if they do not believe in God (Romans 1:20).

God will reveal more truths to us the more we seek to please God. The Bible reveals facts we cannot see with our eyes or discover through scientific research or philosophy. Faith includes the assurance or conviction that what the Bible reveals is true and we can trust God’s word. — © Copyright 2012 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. What is the difference between “I believe God exists” and “I hope God exists”?

2. What is the difference between “I believe God exists” and “I believe God”?

3. Why is faith essential to pleasing God?

4. How is “faith” “the assurance of things hoped for”?

5. How can we exalt God among the nations today?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.