

THE VILLAGE CHURCH

Intimacy with God

Developing a God-
Centered Life

*“... How to Develop a
Heart after God”*



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Intimacy with God

Developing a God-Centered Life

- An Orientation
 - Image-Bearer
 - Crystalizing the Call
 - “Stilling” Our Heart for Intimacy
- Building the Foundation
- Situational Awareness On the Battlefield
- God’s Discipline
- Our Disciplines
- Identification of Inhibitors
- “Walk This Way”
- In-Class Testimonies



Crystallizing the Call

Outline

- **Our Quest**

- To intentionally yearn to know God and seek Him with all our hearts

- **Our Motive**

- To purposefully live for the pleasure of the King

- **Our Worship**

- To honestly evaluate and deliberately re-orient the passions of our hearts

how to know God



Homework / “Going Deeper”

- Scripture

- Read Hebrews 11:4 - 40. In this Hall of Faith determine how many things you can find that “walking by faith” involves...

- Songs

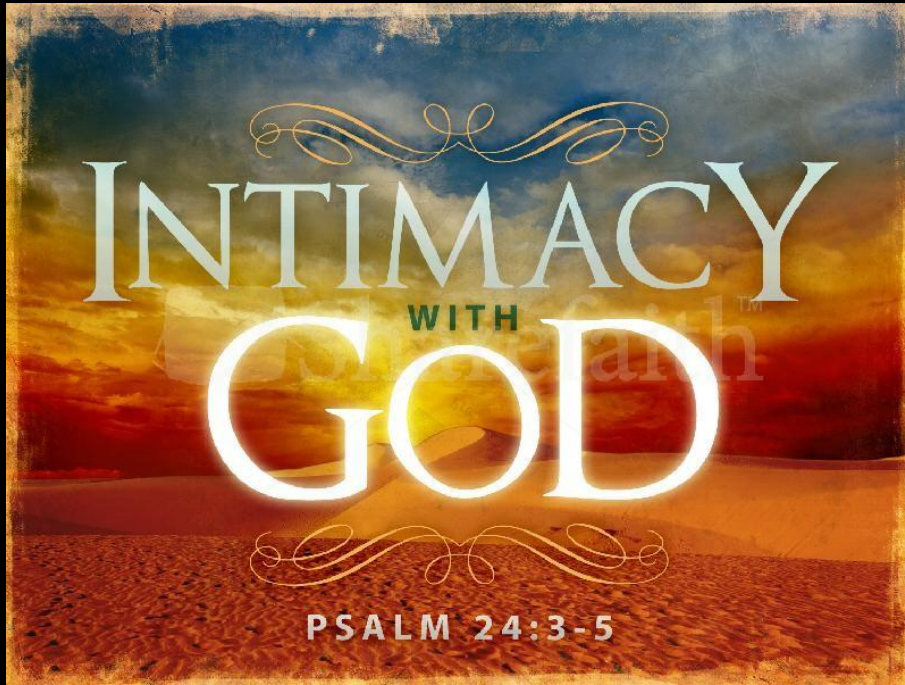
- Find your favorite songs about demonstrating faith and pleasing God and send them to the group along with the words to meditate on

- Music Videos

- Jeremy Camp - Walk By Faith:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eryfC7yPU6E>
- Find your favorite music videos about demonstrating faith and pleasing God and send them to the group along with the words to watch

- Teaching Videos

- Find your favorite music videos about demonstrating faith and pleasing God and send them to the group along with the words to watch



An Orientation **Crystallizing the Call**

Intimacy with God **Developing a** **God-Centered** **Life**



Our Motive



Today's Learning Objective:

To understand the nature of faith and the role my decisions can play in pleasing God

**Yearning to please God and actually
pleasing Him are one and the same.**



Our Motive

What do you mean by “faith”?

- Faith is the “assurance of things hoped for”
- Faith is the “conviction of things not seen”
- Faith is learning to live life from a divine viewpoint
- Faith is trusting God resulting in sustained obedience

Now faith is
the assurance of
things hoped for,
the conviction
of things
not seen.

-Hebrews 11:1



Our Motive



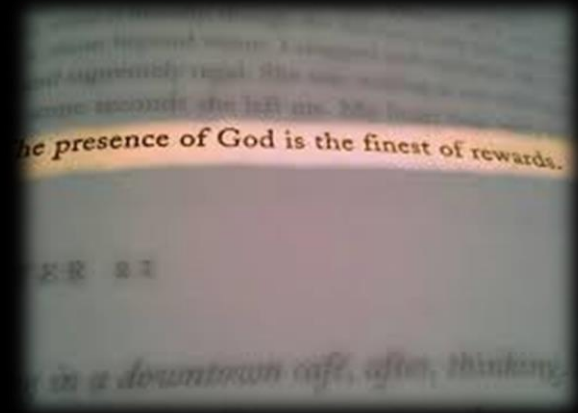
What Are The Essential Ingredients of Faith? (Hebrews 10:32-38)

- A daunting risk, conflict, or crisis - uncertainty thrust upon us (v32)
- A challenging struggle in our mind (fork in the road) (v33)
- A worthy object
 - We will fully lean into (worship) who or what we really know
 - We will fully lean into (worship) who or what we really treasure
- A conclusive decision of the heart (v34c)
 - “*Knowing*” – to conclude or become fully persuaded
 - We have a better and abiding possession
 - “Everything matters”; pleasing God is always worth it
 - “*For by it* (=by this kind of faith) *the men of old gained approval*” (= were attested to by God, or pleased God) (Hebrews 11:2, 39)

Our Motive

What Are The Essential Ingredients of Faith? (Continued)

- A resulting outward act of obedience (v34a)
- A settled disposition of the soul (v35-38)
 - Joyful countenance (v34b)
 - Confidence (v35)
 - Endurance (v36; Hebrews 12:3)
 - Sustaining hope (v37-38)
- An eye to rewards (v35b)
 - God sees everything
 - God remembers everything
 - God rewards everything



Our Motive



What Is The Nature of Faith?

- Faith is not the absence of doubt but the overcoming of it
 - Philip Yancey asserts about the necessary uncertainty of faith, “*Doubt always coexists with faith, for in the presence of certainty who would need faith at all?*” (Romans 8:24-25)
- The power of faith rests in the reliability of the object in which one’s faith is placed
 - Ravi Zacharias said, “*The true nature of faith is inextricably bound to relationship. As such, it is subject to all of the intricacies and complexities of relationship. At times unshakable and strong, and at other times revealed to be flabby and weak, the nature of faith is dynamic. But entering into a relationship of trust with the God revealed in Jesus of Nazareth assures me that despite the complexities, and despite my often small offering of faith, I am welcomed into a relationship anyway. And as my faith is tested, its true nature is progressively revealed.*”

Our Motive

What Is The Nature of Faith? (Continued)

- The degree of faith one places in an object is directly proportional to the knowledge of the object
 - To C.S. Lewis, one of the great spokesmen on behalf of the Christianity, said that the nature of faith was complicated and something that was not easily understood
 - In his heart-wrenching memoir, *A Grief Observed*, Lewis writes:
“You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you. It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong and sound as long as you are merely using it to cord a box.”
- Faith springs into existence when I make a decision to please God
(Hebrews 11:6a)



Our Motive

What Is The Nature of Faith? (Continued)

- Faith that pleases God is always comprised of two parts:
 - He is Real - Faith believes that God exists (v6b)
 - God exists absolutely; He did not come into being and will never go out of being; He is not becoming or growing or changing
 - He said, "*I am who I am*" (Exodus 3:14); that is his name; He absolutely is
 - God is pleased when this absolute existence is known and embraced; when what and who He actually is gets reflected in our lives
 - He is a Rewarder - Faith believes God rewards those who seek him (v6c)
 - Behind the assertion that God is rewarding is the fact that God is so full and so completely self-sufficient that he overflows
 - Rather than needing our service, he is like a never-ending Spring of life and energy and joy and beauty and goodness and power
 - God is pleased when we come to him in a way that...
 - Affirms this and delight in it - when we come to him as One who rewards
 - Trusts He will fulfill the promises of His Word and that He is faithful and true

GOD
IS

God
is a
rewarder

Hebrews 11 – The Hall of Faith: Walking by Faith...

Hebrews: Faith involves

Vs 3 • Understanding... God is "
Creator... Seeing things
→ Creation Word infinitely
Powerful

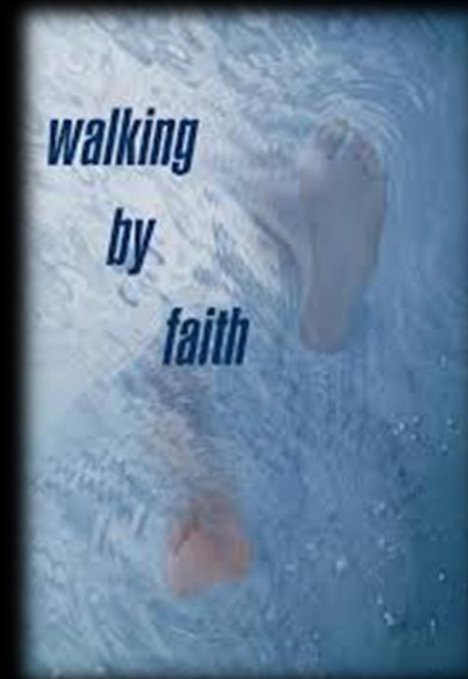
Vs 4 - Worship (Right)
Faith is a learning process
Recognize all worshippers
He is worthy

Vs 5 - Obedience
→ "Intimacy"

Vs. 7 - Trust -
Obedience)
"Faith w/o
works is
dead"

Hebrews 11 – The Hall of Faith: Walking by Faith...

- Involves becoming fully persuaded (11:8)
 - A decision of the heart; diligent seeking
 - To lean fully into God's CHARACTER & His WORD
 - Reckless abandon without safety ropes
 - It is becoming “committed” to versus “trying” to
- Involves completely turning our back on this world and “worldliness” (11:8)
 - 2 Peter 1:3-8 - Stop “tree hugging”
 - Focus on things unseen and not things seen
 - Set ourselves as being apart from this world
- Is born in sacrifice and is costly (11:8)
 - Genesis 12:1 - Leave all we know and follow God's direction - our family, friends, plans, agendas, dreams, desires
 - Galatians 2:20 – “*Christ lives in me... I live by Faith in the Son of God*”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 – Christ's reason for His death



Hebrews 11 – The Hall of Faith: Walking by Faith...

- Involves a journey of desire/delight (11:8)
 - This is the sanctification process; it begins with a decision; it must have a WANT TO
 - v24–26 - Moses lost his attraction to Egypt and all it offered, it and nothing else “*could not compare*” to...
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 – Love on steroids; Desiring to please God MUST become the highest motivation in our lives; a motivation of the heart to please God no matter what (Psalm 37:4; 145:19)
- Involves a blessing, or a reward or an inheritance, or a promise (11:8)
 - Where we are going and what we are pursuing and longing for is much greater than what we leave behind (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:6-9)
- Involves taking action (11:8)
 - “*He went out...*”
 - Our choices and explicit decisions will be displayed in our actions



Hebrews 11 – The Hall of Faith: Walking by Faith... (Continued)

- Involves a journey or a pilgrimage and occurs over time (11:8)
 - Faith is built through progressive sanctification
 - It is architected in our hearts and solidified by our actions in life
 - It is a journey of dependence
- Involves uncertainty (11:8)
 - **Hebrews 13: 5-6** (God will never leave me) – the process of knowing the One who is taking us there and not knowing the destination
 - It is getting to know Him with certainty as we embark upon an uncertain place (**James 1:2-12**)
- Involves alienation (11:9, 13-14)
 - *“He lived as an alien in the land of promise”*
 - **1 Peter 2:11-12** – how do we define ourselves?
Are we okay with being aliens in a world that is not our home?
 - Do we “disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed”?
 - Do we really “speak the truth in love”? Where are my real allegiances?



Hebrews 11 – The Hall of Faith: Walking by Faith... (Continued)

- Involves putting down tent pegs versus foundation stones in this world (11:9)
 - “*Dwelling in tents*”
 - We must hold the things of this earth very loosely
 - We must be willing to “pull up our tent pegs” to go where God wants us to go
- Ensures that obstacles will come our way (11:9)
 - “*Dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise*”
 - They lived in tents for over 100 years; obstacles are really opportunities for us to grow in grace, knowledge and faith
 - Either our character will be developed or displayed
 - Our decisions over time create an evolution of solidification or commitment; example – big tree’s rings of growth each year
- Involves keeping an eternal perspective or passion (11:10, 14-16)
 - “*For he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God*”
 - We need to live in the shadow of eternity and see the unseen or eternal
 - This will help us navigate this life and establish the right motivation of the heart to please God (1 Peter 5:6-10; Colossians 3:1-2)



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how to know God



Homework / “Going Deeper”

- Scripture

- Read **Hebrews 11:20 - 23**. What do these verses say about these men and what mattered most to them at the end of their days
- What other verses would be jugular as you write out your eulogy, finishing strong, having your spiritual flag flying at full mast and why?

- Writing Out Your Eulogy

- Write out your epitaph you would want people to read standing over your grave-stone; incorporate the theme of Intimacy with God in it; be ready to share it with the class...
- What new life changes is God pressing on your soul that need to be made in your life?

