

Intimacy with God

Developing a God-Centered Life

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

An Orientation - Crystalizing the Call

Our Motive - Pleasing God (Part 2 & 3)

Key Learnings & Homework Review

- Pleasing God; Homework (Part 1): Read Hebrews 11:4 - 40. In this Hall of Faith determine how many things you can find that “walking by faith” involves...

Crystalizing the Call Outline

- **Our Quest:** To intentionally yearn to know God and seek Him with all our hearts
- **Our Motive:** To purposefully _____ for the pleasure of the King
- **Our Worship:** To honestly evaluate and deliberately re-orient the passions of our hearts

Today's Learning Objective: *To understand the nature of _____ and the role my _____ can play in pleasing God*

Our Motive

What do You Mean by “Faith”?

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

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
- A conclusive decision of the heart (v34c)
- A resulting outward act of obedience (v34a)
- A settled disposition of the soul (v35-38)
- An eye to rewards (v35b)

What Is The Nature of Faith?

- Faith is not the _____ of doubt but the _____ 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 _____ 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.”*
- The degree of faith one places in an object is directly proportional to the _____ 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 _____ to _____ God (Hebrews 11:6a)
- Faith that pleases God is always comprised of two parts:
 - He is _____ - Faith believes that God _____ (v6b)
 - God exists _____; 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 _____
- God is pleased when this absolute existence is known and embraced; when what and who He actually is gets _____ in our lives
- He is a _____ - Faith believes God rewards those who _____ him (v6c)
 - Behind the assertion that God is rewarding is the fact that God is so full and so completely self-sufficient that he _____
 - 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 _____
 - Trusts He will fulfill the promises of His Word and that He is _____ and _____

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

- Involves becoming fully _____ (11:8)
 - A decision of the heart; diligent seeking
 - To lean fully into God's _____ & His _____
 - Reckless abandon without safety ropes
 - It is becoming "committed" to versus "trying" to
- Involves completely turning our back on this _____ and " _____ " (11:8)
 - 2 Peter 1:3-8 - Stop " _____ hugging"
 - Focus on things _____ and not things seen
 - Set ourselves as being apart from this world
- Is born in _____ and is _____ (11:8)
 - Genesis 12:1 - Leave _____ 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
- Involves a journey of _____ (11:8)
 - This is the sanctification process; it begins with a decision; it must have a _____ TO
 - v24–26 - Moses lost his _____ 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 _____ in our lives; a motivation of the heart to please God no matter what (Psalm 37:4)
- Involves a blessing, or a _____ or an inheritance, or a promise (11:8)
 - Where we are going and what we are pursuing and longing for is much _____ than what we leave behind (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:6-9)
- Involves taking _____ (11:8)
 - “*He went out...*”
 - Our choices and explicit decisions will display in our _____
- Involves a journey or a pilgrimage and occurs over _____ (11:8)
 - Faith is built through _____ sanctification
 - It is architected in our hearts and solidified by our _____ in life
 - It is a journey of _____
- Involves _____ (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 _____
 - It is getting to know Him with certainty as we embark upon an _____ place (James 1:2-12)
- Involves _____ (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 “_____ the comfortable and comfort the disturbed”?

- Do we really “speak the “_____ in love”? Where are my real allegiances?
- Involves putting down _____ versus foundation _____ in this world (11:9)
 - “*Dwelling in tents*”
 - We must hold the things of this earth very _____
 - We must be willing to “pull up our tent pegs” to go where _____ wants us to go
- Ensures that _____ 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 _____ years; obstacles are really opportunities for us to grow in grace, knowledge and faith
 - Either our character will be _____ or _____
 - Our _____ over time create an evolution of solidification or commitment; example – big tree’s rings of growth each year
- Involves keeping an _____ 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 _____ 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)
- Must be tied to a _____ God (11:10, 16)
 - “*... whose architect and builder is God*”; “*Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them*”
 - God is _____ involved in each of our lives
- Involves fully _____ and experiencing God’s power (11:11-12)
 - “*By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life*”

- It is in the middle of the _____ when we rely on His promises and power that He shows up in all His _____ and then He also is the One to get the credit or praise; remember that He is in the _____ “with” us... just ask...
- Involves setting great _____ of a great God (11:11-12)
 - “... *since Sarah considered Him faithful who had promised*”
 - It is awfully hard to have great expectations of God if we don’t _____ Him very well or think much of Him
 - In order to think much of God we must develop a “_____ view of God”
- Involves _____ (11:13, 39)
 - “*All these died in faith, without receiving the promises*”
 - We must learn to “_____ on the Lord”
 - What did Abraham wait patiently for? What promises do we have that we have not yet realized?
 - Are we okay with “waiting on the Lord”?
- Is all about stripping _____ from our lives (11:17)
 - Genesis 22:12, 16 – “*Now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me*”; “*because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son*”
 - Idols inhibit our _____ and _____ with God
- Is all about transforming our _____ responses (11:17)
 - “*So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.*” (Genesis 22:3)
 - Our first or initial response is normally a true reflection of our _____
- Involves obedience no matter what or how I _____ (11:17)
 - “*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac*”
 - “You may never know the impact you may have on people who are watching you in the long term what God discloses to you in the moment

and as you demonstrate faith during the test, the situation, or the trial”
(Mark Hurlbert)

- Moves us beyond _____ when God’s Word doesn’t make sense (11:17)
 - *“He who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son”*
 - God’s Word is almost always 180 degrees different than our _____ way of thinking
- Does not involve _____ (11:17)
 - *“He who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son”*
 - *“Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world”* (Philippians 2:14-15)
- Erects _____ to serve as memory joggers or reminders of God’s past _____ in order to recall it in the future when needed (11:17)
 - *“And Abraham called the name of that place The LORD will Provide, as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.”*
(Genesis 22:14)
- Involves making _____ today based upon _____ knowledge of God’s character that I have learned in the past (11:19)
 - *“He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead”*
 - God is “able”
 - *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed”* (2 Corinthians 9:8)
 - *“In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One who is able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation...”*
(Hebrews 5:7-9)

- “... and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you, that God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.” (Matthew 3:9)
- “And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28)
- “Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)
- “I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.” (2 Timothy 1:12)
- “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 16:25-27)
- “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” (Jude 1:24-25)

Hebrews 11:23-29 – Moses: Decisions of Faith

Decisions have _____...

- Deuteronomy 30:19 – “Set before you today”; choose life (blessing) or death (curse); only _____ outcomes in our choices
- Joshua 24:15 – “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve”

- 1 Kings 18:21 – “How long will you hesitate between two opinions”; the people did not answer Elijah a word

_____, not circumstances, determine...

- The _____ of our lives
- The _____ of our lives
- What _____ God
- The evidence of our faith, our _____ growth, and maturity
- The level of our _____ with the Almighty

Verse	Dimension	Decisions of Faith	Comments
23	Security & Surrender	Faith _____ to be faithful	“Open palms” (monkey story) to God’s sovereignty
24	Significance	Faith rejects the world’s _____ / _____ / _____	Small decisions lead or prepare us for big ones; “discernment”; greater value proposition
25	Sufficiency & Satisfaction	Faith rejects the world’s _____	“Passing” (temporary) “Consequences (life versus death) Never satisfy (salt water)
26	Supremacy	Faith rejects the world’s _____	“Considering”; “Greater reward” Desiring to please God no matter what
27	Seeing Him (Who is unseen)	Faith rejects the world’s _____ / _____	Cultivate a fear of God Cultivate a “high view” of God
28	Solution	Faith accepts God’s _____	Willing to be foolish Step out in timely obedience Remember to give thanks
29	Scripture	Faith accepts God’s _____	Natural versus supernatural decisions stem from revelation “All true” (Remember in the middle of...)

In Summary

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for (He rewards)
and the conviction of things not seen (He exists)...

There are essential ingredients of faith... understand them...

Faith springs into existence when I make a decision to please God...

“Just two choices on the shelf; pleasing God or pleasing self”

The decisions of my heart either please God or not... they either usher me into intimacy
with God or slam the door to His presence!

Homework

- **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?

The Role of Decision Making in Pleasing God

