

## Foundations pt3 – Faith Expects Rewards

Dr. John Carmichael

[Heb 6:1-3 NASB95] 1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.

[Heb 11:6 NASB95] 6 And without faith it is impossible to please [Him,] for he who comes to God must believe that He is and [that] He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

- A pastor questioned Kenneth Hagin, “Why do you preach on faith so much?” His answer is, “You can’t get saved without faith. You can’t please God without faith. You can’t get healed without faith. Anything that is not done in faith is sin.”
- The faith message is not a generational message. It is a Gospel message. Learning how to use your faith will keep you protected and prospering in every environment.

**What does Hebrews 11:6 teach about faith in God?**

**Here are four teachings about faith from Hebrews 11:6.**

### **I. Faith is necessary to please God.**

- a. It’s a command. Jesus said we are to have faith in God. [Mar 11:22 NASB95] 22 And Jesus answered, saying to them, "Have faith in God."
- b. It’s a lifestyle. The just (born-again believers) shall live by faith. [Heb 10:36-38 NASB95] 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. 37 FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. 38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.
- c. Its absence is a sin. Anything not of faith is a sin. [Rom 14:23 NASB95] 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because [his eating is] not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.
- d. Faith has actions. [Jas 2:18 NASB95] 18 But someone may [well] say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."
- e. Faith is developed by the Word of God. [Rom 10:17 NASB95] 17 So faith [comes] from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

### **II. Faith is more than just worshipping Him.**

- a. Many times, the disciples did not have faith even though they were around Him. [Jhn 3:36 NASB95]
- b. Demons believe in God. [Jas 2:19 NASB95] 19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.
- c. We need to make a decision to have faith in God.

### **III. Faith is in His existence.**

- a. [Psa 19:1-2 NASB95] 1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David. The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.
- b. [Rom 1:19-20 NASB95] 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

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- c. Nature proclaims the existence of God. Note: Eclipse (April 2024) – “Even though the Sun is about 400 times bigger than the Moon, it is also about 400 times farther away. This makes the Sun and the Moon appear almost exactly the same size in our sky.” (<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/geometry>)
- d. Stay focused on the existence of God.

### IV. Faith is in His nature to reward seekers.

- a. Faith in God will produce powerful results. [Mar 11:22-24 NASB95] 22 And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. 23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be [granted] him. 24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be [granted] you.
  - b. Diligently seek Him:
    - i. Prayer life - [Mat 6:6 NASB95] 6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you.
    - ii. Bible reading – “When you engage in reading, various brain functions are activated, encompassing visual processing, comprehension, auditory perception, and more. However, when you read your Bible, these functions align with other regions of your brain as God intended, triggering the release of chemicals such as dopamine. This results in a profound emotional response to the content you are absorbing.” (<https://www.therapyforchristians.com/blog/benefits-of-reading-the-bible>) [Psa 1:2-3 NASB95] 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree [firmly] planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.
    - iii. Faithfulness to the church - [Psa 92:12-14 NASB95] 12 The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 Planted in the house of the LORD, They will flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green,
    - iv. Fasting - [Mat 6:18 NASB95] 18 so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you.
    - v. Giving - [Mat 6:4 NASB95] 4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you.
  - c. God wants to reward you. It does not please God to not expect His reward.
- **God wants us to know that He rewards a genuine faith toward Him as we seek Him.**