

EMBRACING FAITH

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:6

- I. **Faith asks and seeks. A key question: “...will He find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:1-8)**
 - A. The woman persisted, not against the adversary, but with the judge. There is a back-and-forth nature to legal courts. Note what Abraham did in the legal courts of heaven (Genesis 18:16-32).
 - B. Abraham had the “shameless audacity” of the man in Luke 11:5-12. Believing in the goodness of the Father causes a relational exchange.
 - C. The foundation of this access to God is the finished work of our great high priest, Jesus (Hebrews 4:14-16).

- II. **Faith sees the invisible. Recognizing divine appointments (Hebrews 11:1-3)**
 - A. The faith that made Jesus marvel (Matthew 8:5-13)
 - B. “Daughter, your faith has healed you” (Mark 5:24-34).
 - C. Jesus and His Father are always working, and so are we (John 5:16-20; 14:12-14).
 - D. Giving thanks in all circumstances and for God’s answers gives us an amazing awareness of seeing God (I Thessalonians 5:16-21).
 - E. Faith asks for and receives wisdom (James 1:5-8).

- III. **Faith responds to the high callings and purposes of God for our lives (Ephesians 2:10; Psalm 139:16-18).**
 - A. God entrusts us with the stewardship of spiritual gifts (I Peter 4:10-11; Isaiah 6:8).
 - B. An entire generation died out, because they would not fulfill God’s purpose for their lives. Notice the heart of Caleb and Joshua (Number 14:5-9, 20-24, 29-31; Joshua 14:7-14; 17:14-17).

- IV. **Faith rests (Mark 4:35-41).**
 - A. “Do you still have no faith” (Mark 4:40)?
 - B. Jesus promises to get us to the other side (Hebrews 13:5)!

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