

2. **Will we be judged according to our faith?** It is interesting that all judgment scenes have to do with our works (above). But in a sense we will be judged according to our faith because faith is the motivating force behind our deeds, or lack of faith behind our lack of obedience to God.
3. **Faith alone is declared to be a dead faith or no faith at all.** “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:26). Please read the inspired of God record beginning in verse 14. **Note:** What does faith profit if it has not works? (v.14); God gives us an excellent illustration through the pen of His servant James in verses 15 and 16 (cp. Matt. 25:34-46). And then He gives the conclusion in verse 17, “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” Can “faith alone” really be seen or avail anything (v.18)? The devils have faith, but they tremble because they have “faith alone.” This should convince anyone that “faith alone” has never pleased God and can never please Him (cp. v.20). Verses 21-24 shows Abraham’s faith and makes the point: “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only (v.24).” Rahab had the same kind of pleasing faith (v.25). And the conclusion is: “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
4. **What kind of faith do you want to have?** Faith only which the devils have, or the kind of faith that pleases God which all the faithful have?
5. **What kind of faith do you have?** Please consider 2 Corinthians 13:5 and Galatians 5:6.
6. **What kind of faith do you think Abraham had?** “For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Rom. 4:3). Please read and study the context of Romans 4:3 and James 2:21-24. Also, it would be good to go back and read about Abraham in Genesis, at least these verses: 12:1-5; 17:1-27; 18:10-19; 21:1-8; 22:1-19. Please study these verses and answer all these questions for your own benefit.

**We will look at this next month.** God knew the kind of faith Abraham had and we can know it also by the things God has revealed to us for our learning (Rom. 15:4). ♥



## “Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

(II Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)



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## The Kind Of Faith God Requires (part 1)

by Perry Sexton

“**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” (Heb. 11:6). In this verse (and many others) we can see the immense importance of faith. But what kind of faith is it that pleases God? Just any kind? No, we can learn from the Bible exactly the kind of faith that is required of God in order for man to please Him and thus have salvation that comes only from God. If we believe God we will believe everything in His Word.

**One of the best ways of finding the faith which pleases God** is to look to the men and women that pleased Him as recorded in God’s Word. Also, we will look at some who did not have the kind of faith that pleased God.

**In the great faith chapter we read of Abel who pleased God;** let us learn how he pleased God. “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh” (Heb. 11:4). Abel stands as a great example of the kind of faith that pleases God and the kind of faith we should have. “By faith Abel offered...,” but does this mean that Abel, on his own, came up with the idea of doing this offering and had a strong belief that it would please God, and because of his faith (that it would please God) it did please God? **No, not at all.** Actually, this scenario fits Cain but remember God rejected Cain and his offering (Gen. 4:5ff). We will get back to Cain later, but for now more on Abel who had the kind of faith which pleased God.

**Romans 10:17 is extremely important** to our subject and to our service to God; it would be good to remember it: “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” The faith that pleases God comes only by hearing the Word of God. Mankind is to hear and believe God’s Word – it is that simple. God has spoken and we are to hear and believe! For example: God tells us that all things were created by Jesus Christ (Col. 1:15ff, et al). We should believe that. Would it please God if we did not believe Him? Of course not. Notice however, that is a statement of fact, not a command: nothing to be obeyed here – just believe it. Commands are to be obeyed and when God gives us a command we should believe it and obey it.

**It is clear that Cain and Abel knew what God required** concerning offerings to God (see Gen. 4:3-7; Heb. 11:4 and Rom. 10:17). Abel heard God, believed God, and did what God required concerning the sacrifice. We know these things because Abel made his offering “by faith” which comes only by hearing God (Rom. 10:17). On the other hand, Cain heard God but evidently believed a substitute would please God just as well, but it did not! Therefore, he did not really believe God! Abel believed God and therefore obeyed God; Cain did not believe God and therefore did not obey God. True faith and obedience go hand in hand; unbelief and disobedience go together naturally. Throughout the Bible we find these two categories of people and it will be so for as long as the world stands. Abel had faith in what God said and obeyed God; Cain had faith in his own thoughts and disobeyed God. What kind of faith should we have? What kind of faith do we have???

**“And Enoch walked with God...”** (Gen. 5:24), i.e., Enoch believed God and obeyed God’s commands. As a result of this we learn that God “took him,” i.e., “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Heb. 11:5). Enoch believed God and therefore obeyed God (“walked with God”). This kind of faith pleases God. We all can have that same kind of faith.

**Noah was another man with the kind of faith that pleases God:** Noah “walked with God” (Gen. 6:9). “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Heb. 11:7). Please notice: (1.) God warned Noah of things not seen as of yet. This certainly included never before seeing a world-wide flood and likely

never having seen it rain before, etc. (cp. 2 Peter 3:6,7). Noah believed what God said about the flood. (2.) Noah’s faith moved him to obey God and prepare an ark wherein he and his family were saved from the flood. Noah’s true faith moved him to obey God in all things (Gen. 6:22). Could Noah have been saved by believing only? Could Noah have been saved **IF** he had not obeyed God? The answer to both questions is a resounding “NO!” What if Noah had decided he wanted more than just the one window God had authorized and put in an extra window: (1.) Would Noah have believed God? (2.) Would Noah have obeyed God? (3.) Would God have been pleased? The answer is “No” to all three questions. This can be known by the Word of God.

**But some will object** saying “That is too hard.” Well, let us look at it this way: You hire a contractor to build you a house and give him a blue print of the house you want. In one room (it doesn’t matter which room) the blue print calls for one window, but the contractor thinks you should have two windows in that room so he adds another window to that room. Would you be pleased? No, if you had wanted an extra window in that room you would have authorized it. You especially would not be pleased when the contractor presented you with an extra bill for the additional window and labor!

**Abraham, first called Abram, stands out in his faith to God.** In fact he is called the father of the faithful (cp. Rom. 4:16). Much is written concerning Abraham and his faith and we can only deal with part of it here. Let us start with a misunderstood and misused verse by many: “For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Rom. 4:3). Many sincere people misunderstand this because they are taught wrong and do not look at the context and whole of Abraham’s faith. Many are taught that the alien sinner is saved by “faith alone” based upon this and some other verses taken out of context and misused, but dear friends, we MUST take the context and ALL that the Bible has to say on the subject if we want the saving truth.

**Remember:** “How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them (Psa. 139:17). Of course space here will not allow us to look at everything concerning faith and detail what Paul is dealing with in the book of *Romans*, but we shall note a few things concerning Abraham’s great faith and the faith we should and yes, must have IF we will please God.

1. **We will be judged according to our works** (Rom. 2:6; Matt. 16:27; Matt. 25:34-46; 1 Cor. 3:8; 2 Cor. 5:10; Gal. 6:7,8; Rev. 2:23; 20:12; 22:12)!