

Faith Is Rewarded

5-25-25

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

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.

For Faith we must believe that God exists. But it is not enough! The demons know God exists.

James 2:19 (ESV) NO/OH

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

We wouldn't be here if we didn't believe God existed, but for genuine faith there must also be a conviction about God's moral character, a belief "that God rewards those who earnestly seek him."

We must believe God cares. Without that deep conviction that God rewards on earth, faith is not a possibility. The source of our living faith is the Scriptures which are God breathed.

Romans 10:17 (ESV)

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the WORD of Christ.

Christ speaks to us through the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit, and other believers who speak the WORD of God. Thus, we have confidence.

Isaiah 55:11 (ESV)

So shall MY WORD be that goes out from MY MOUTH; it shall not return to ME empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

We should be hearing God daily. God will make the Word personal to us requiring faith just like Mary.

Luke 1:38 (ESV) NO/OH

Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to YOUR WORD."

Mary said, "Let it be according to what YOU told me." God will specifically speak to us. Notice the Word spoken by the Holy Spirit to Philip.

Acts 8:29 (ESV) NO/O/H

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."

Philip was told to go talk to a man. This was not an accidental meeting. It was a divine appointment.

Beyond our salvation, God will speak to us. Faith is hearing God, obeying, expecting to be rewarded.

Paul had confidence when God spoke to him.

Acts 27:25 (ESV) NO/OH

So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.

Abraham the man of faith teaches us a fundamental lesson about faith.

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

By faith Abraham, when called ... went.

When did Abraham go? When called! God speaking is “necessary” before we go. Abraham couldn’t exhibit faith until after God spoke. *Once God spoke, Abraham obeyed even though there was nothing tangible he could see or rely on.*

***Relying on nothing except the Word of God is the essence of faith.* The same with Noah.**

Hebrews 11:7 (NIV)

By faith Noah, when warned ... built

When did Noah build? After God spoke. Noah was not acting on a hunch or on merely human advice. Noah built because God told him to build.

Hearing God is necessary for Faith. God's thoughts, HIS ways, are higher than anything we can comprehend.

Isaiah 55:8–9 (ESV) NO/OH

⁸ For MY thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways MY ways, declares the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are MY ways higher than your ways and MY thoughts than your thoughts.

Since God's thoughts and rewards are greater than anything we can imagine, we need to hear God in order to act in faith knowing HE will reward.

Ephesians 3:20 (ESV) NO/OH

Now to HIM who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.

Listen, act, be rewarded! Faith means Jesus and Jesus alone who rewards.

Acts 4:12 (ESV)

There is salvation in no one else, but Jesus, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.