

The Essentials
Faith Toward God

Heb. 11:6

Notice that it is not sincerity, service, or sacrifice that God mentions here.

The nature of faith is that it requires you to believe what you cannot see.

- The skeptic – China and cell phones
- Heb. 11:1 - *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see. (NIrV)*
- 2 Cor. 5:7 - *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

The best thing that faith will give you is salvation.

- Eph. 2:8,9 - ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*
- Notice that faith itself is a gift from God. Work of the Holy Spirit.
- God says if you can believe Me for the best, you can believe me for the rest!
- Put another way, if God will give you the best, He will give you the rest.
 - Rom. 8:32- *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

Lack of obedience is not lack of will power. It is unbelief.

- Heb. 3:18, 19 - ¹⁸ *And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? ¹⁹ So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

The way we know we are in a place of believing God is that we have real joy and peace.

- Rom. 15:13 - *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

How do we believe?

In Mark 4:35-41, Jesus gives us **three things about faith He wants us to realize:**

- (1) He wants us to believe what He has said. (v. 35 “... let us cross over to the other side.”)
- (2) Faith is ultimately based on God’s character. (v. 38 “... do You not care?”)
 - What was going to happen here? “They all drowned?!”*
- (3) He will keep putting us in situations that require us to believe.
 - Since it is faith that God wants (Heb. 11:6)
 - I Pet. 1:6-7 ⁶ *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*
 - Notice *what* is being ‘tested’ here.
 - What does God want to give you? A testimony!
 - Heb. 11:5 - By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*