

When Faith Gets Real

Hebrews 11

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Hebrews 11:1-6

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¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation...
⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks...

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⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
 —Hebrews 11:1-2, 4, 6 ESV

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The simple goal of real faith is to please God based on His standards and not my own.

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How can I please God?

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1

Pleasing God Begins with Understanding His Holiness

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And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"... "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

—Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8 ESV

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"Divorced from the holiness of God, sin is merely self-defeating behavior or breach of etiquette. Divorced from the holiness of God, grace is merely empty rhetoric, pious window dressing for the modern technique by which sinners work out their own salvation."

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"Divorced from the holiness of God, our gospel becomes indistinguishable from any host of alternative self-help doctrines. Divorced from the holiness of God, our public morality is reduced to little more than an accumulation of trade-offs between competing private interests."

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"Divorced from the holiness of God, our worship is mere entertainment. The holiness of God is the cornerstone of Christian faith, for it is the foundation of reality."
—David Wells, *No Place for Truth*

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2

Pleasing God Necessitates His Acceptance

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Genesis 4:1-10

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Genesis 3—Fall of Man

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And the LORD God made
for Adam and for his wife
garments of skins and
clothed them.
—Genesis 3:21 ESV

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Genesis 3—Fall of Man

- Sinners need to be covered.

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Genesis 3—Fall of Man

- Sinners need to be covered.
- Human manufactured coverings are not acceptable.

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Genesis 3—Fall of Man

- Sinners need to be covered.
- Human manufactured coverings are not acceptable.
- God provided the covering needed Himself.

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Genesis 3—Fall of Man

- Sinners need to be covered.
- Human manufactured coverings are not acceptable.
- God provided the covering needed Himself.
- Rightful covering was obtained by death.

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Principle: ...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. —Hebrews 9:22 ESV

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...“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” —John 14:6 ESV

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3 Pleasing God Comes by Faith,
Not by Works

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⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

—Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV

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4
Pleasing God Means Being
Made Righteous and
Having Something to Declare

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¹³“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’
¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” —**Luke 18:13-14** ESV

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The simple goal of real faith is to please God based on His standards and not my own.

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