



## The Essence of Faith

Greg Wendschlag June 11, 2023

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Luke 17:1-19

- *"Whatever is not of faith, is sin."* Rom. 14:23
- *"Without faith it is impossible to please God."* Heb. 11:6
- *"The righteous ones will live by faith."* Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38
- *"Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God."* Rom. 10:17
- *"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."* Heb. 11:1
- *"Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith."* Heb. 12:2
- *"For it is by grace through faith that we are saved."* Eph. 2:8
- *"Faith without deeds is dead."* James 2:26

*"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"* Luke 18:8

What is this "faith" that God is looking for and how do we get it?

1. When you are a servant, no command is unreasonable.
  2. You don't need supernatural power to do what you are told.
  3. The supernatural things of God are dependent on the natural obedience of men.
  4. When you are a servant, you don't expect thanks or praise for doing what you are commanded to do.
  5. Because our master loves us, when we serve him absolutely, the supernatural happens and wonderful intimacy is developed.
- There is a difference in being cleansed and being made whole. Vs 14 & 19
  - Faith, belief, and obedience are Biblically dependent on each other. Heb. 3-4
  - You don't need faith to obey what you have been told to do, but doing what you have been told to do is the essence of your faith.

*When the Jesus returns, will He find us doing what we have been told to do with hearts of gladness and joy?*  
Luke 18:8

Thoughts while we linger with Jesus

1. Do I feel God's commands are unreasonable? Do I feel that right now?
2. Do I leverage God with my obedience, expecting some blessing in return if I obey?
3. Am I content to simply obey and let God lead my life as He pleases?
4. Am I content to obey always, enjoying closeness with God as my greatest reward?