

# Faith That Pleases God

*“And 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.” (Hebrews 11: 6)*

The Word of God teaches us that without faith there is no eternal life, and without faith we cannot please God. Faith in God dictates obedience into our lives. We cannot say that we have faith in God but we are not showing obedience toward Him and toward His commands. Jesus clearly said, *“If you love me, you will obey what I command.” (John 14: 15)* We cannot say we love God and we love Jesus but we don't obey His Word and His commands. The Bible also tells us that faith without deeds is dead. *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that -- and shudder.” (James 2: 14-19)* Therefore, *“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deed is dead.” (James 2: 26)*

Faith brings the fear of God in our lives and this fear of God teaches us obedience. We will read below three examples of faith from the Bible that represent three Alps in the Scripture where we found faith is accompanied by great obedience to God.

**1- Abraham:** *“Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.” Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” (Genesis 22: 1-12)* It was not easy for Abraham to bring his only son Isaac to sacrifice him to God. Abraham had waited many years for his son to be born. But what we found here that God asked Abraham to give Him what He had given him before. Abraham obeyed God even to this point because he truly has faith in God. *Can you in the same way express your faith and obey God up to the point of giving Him the most valuable that you have?*

**2- Mary:** *“In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.” “I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.” (Luke 1: 26-38)* As we can see here from the scripture, that the task that was given to Mary was not an easy task. She was asked to be pregnant while she is a virgin and without a husband. This is a very hard task. According to the Jewish as they follow the Word of God, the woman would be stoned if she cannot prove her virginity at marriage as we can read here: *“If, however, the charge is true and no proof of the girl's virginity can be found, she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death.” (Deuteronomy 22: 20-21)* So how much more it was risky for Mary to do that task; to be pregnant and without a husband. She obeyed God because she had great faith in Him. *Can you in the same way take the risk and be willing to continue to serve God even in times of troubles and dangers?*

**3- Jesus Christ:** *“Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him. On reaching the place, He said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” (Luke 22: 39-44)* Jesus is the Son of God who came from heaven to save mankind from sin and death. The task that was entrusted to Jesus is to die on the cross for our sins, and that was a very painful, noxious and humiliated type of death. *“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death -- even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2: 6-8)* Jesus surrender everything to God and prayed that not His will but God's will be done in His life. *Can you in the same way be willing and obedient to do God's will and not your own will?*

**My Prayer:** *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord forgive me my unwillingness to obey You and submit myself to Your will. Lord increase my faith in You and enable me to obey and to do Your will. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*