

I Have Decided 1

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Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) – ⁶ 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.

Faith is what pleases God. Faith is simply being governed by what you believe! What I “believe” must become my final authority, no matter what I have experienced or where I have failed. What I “believe” becomes the “leader” and I become the “follower”.

Faith sees God as a rewarder. Faith provides an expectation of “good from God” into an unseen future. Faith projects God, that is, his love and provision into your future. Fear projects his absence.

There are 2 roads that you can choose to please God. One of them is law / religion, which is a works based righteousness in where you try to earn God’s favor. The other is faith, which is a grace based righteousness where you receive God’s favor without merit.

1 Corinthians 1:27-31 (MSG) – ²⁷ Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, ²⁸ chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? ²⁹ That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. ³⁰ Everything that we have — right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start — comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. ³¹ That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."

Faith in his grace is the only thing that can take you into the freedom and future God has for you and that you desire for yourself.

How does faith come?

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) – ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

What you “believe” must be formed by the Word of God. His Word must govern your life. What you “believe” is what “governs your life”, not what you wish for or desire.

James 1:23-25 (NIV) – ²³ Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.

Stay in the mirror with daily devotions, small groups, and weekend services.

Mark 7:18-23 (NIV) - ¹⁸ "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? ¹⁹ For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.") ²⁰ He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' ²¹ For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual

immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"