

IMPOSSIBILITY OF PLEASING GOD (Apart from Faith Cycle)

The Book of Hebrews declares four IMPOSSIBILITIES associated with the plan of God that every believer should understand.

- Impossibility of renewing believer to spiritual growth maturity while in reversionism (6:4-6)
- Impossibility of God lying about His promises (6:17-19)
- Impossibility of animal sacrifices taking away sins (10:1-5)
- **Impossibility of believer pleasing God apart from faith cycle** (11:5-6)

The fourth IMPOSSIBILITY recorded in the Book of Hebrews comes from the story of Enoch (Gen.5: 21-24).

We will study our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Taken Before death
- Testimony Pleasing to God
- Truth Impossible to please God without faith cycle
- Trust Believe in the person and performance of God

The Greek word for PLEASE is (aresko) or WELL-PLEASED (euaresteo). Theological Dictionary of NT Words explains that **aresko** “*implies the establishment of a positive relationship between factors and therefore to make peace or to reconcile.*”

We will study SIX aspects of why it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God apart from the faith cycle.

1. Heb.11:5-6 and Gen.5:21-24 record Enoch as a believer who walked to please God for 300 years.

There was a specific time and event when he chose to walk to please God (5:21-24). What was it? (Methuselah means – when he dies, it shall be sent – Jude 14-15.) What about you?

The Hebrew word for walk (halak / hithpael impf). Two men walked the faith cycle, which pleased God after the birth of Methuselah (Enoch –7th and Noah –10th from Adam) (Gen.5: 21; 6:9) read.

- *Note that Enoch and Noah are given together in Heb.11: 5-7 to teach the faith cycle.*
- Note that they were given different ways out of God’s judgment upon a very evil world.
- Note that they walked to please God in a very evil world (Gen.6: 5).

2. Paul talked to the Thessalonians about the importance of Christians learning how to walk to please God in the filling ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit in their dispensation (1 Thess.4: 1-8).

- Paul was teaching experiential sanctification by means of the filling ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit (4:3-5; Gal.5: 16-17)
- Paul warns believers not to transgress or defraud other believers in sexual matters (4:6-7; 1 Cor.6: 18-7:2).
- Paul warns believers that rejection of this teaching is rejecting the will of God regarding the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (4:8).
- Paul taught in Eph.5: 8-10 that the Christian cannot please God by walking in the flesh (OSN) (Rom.8: 4, 8-9).

- 3. Children are commanded to obey their parents *in all things* because it pleases God (Col.3: 20-21; Eph.6: 1-4).**
- “Children, be obedient (hupakouo / p.a.impv.2pl) to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.” (Col.3:20)
 - Parents are commanded to not exasperate their children. “Fathers, do not (STOP) exasperate (me epethizo / p.a.impv.2pl) your children, that they may not lose heart (me athumeo / p.subj 3pl).” (Col.3:21)
- 4. Single believers should live to please God by applying biblical truths rather than operating from cosmos diabolicus thinking of the world (1 Cor.7: 32-35).**
- “One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord.” (7:32)
 - He is concerned about pleasing the Lord by being holy in body and spirit and by undistracted devotion to the Lord. (7:34-35).
 - “For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, ‘The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me.’” (Rom.15: 3; Ps.69: 9)
 - Paul used the military active service as an example of this principle (2 Tim.2: 3-4).
- 5. When Christians commit themselves to living to please the Lord, it will result in more effective prayer life (1 John 3:21-22; 1 Kings 3:10; Heb.13: 21).**
- During a prayer in which he mentioned David’s walk with the Lord, Solomon requested a heart of wisdom (1 Kings 3:6-9). The Bible records that this prayer pleased the Lord and the Lord encouraged Solomon to commit himself to walk with the Lord (1 Kings 3:10-14). “*And if you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days.*” (3:14)
 - “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.” (1 John 3:22)
 - It will also increase the effectiveness of grace charity (Heb.13: 16; Phil.4: 18-19).
- 6. Pleasing God should be the spiritual mature believer’s ambition in life in the world (2 Cor.5:6-9; John 8:29-30).**
- “Therefore also we have as our *ambition* (*philotimeomai / to strive to bring something to pass*), whether at home (5:6) or absent (5:8), to be pleasing to Him.” (5:9)

IF YOU WANT TO PLEASE THE LORD

“Walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Cor 5:7)