

Faith in the Lord

Hebrews 11:6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁶ *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

Introduction

Hebrews 11:6 tells us the essential truth about how we approach God: “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He **is** and that He is a **rewarder** of those who seek Him.”

This verse gives us the two non-negotiable pillars of a God-pleasing faith:

1. Believe that God **is** (He is real and present).
2. Believe that God **rewards** those who diligently seek Him (He is responsive and faithful).

Today we're going to walk through both of these truths. This is more than a theology lesson; it is an invitation. **A faith grounded in the reality of Christ is the only faith that truly pleases God and is the only faith that is ever rewarded.**

As we reflect on these truths, I want to remind us: **Advent is not just a season; it's an invitation**—an invitation to renewed faith, deeper hope, and returning our hearts to the One who came for us in the flesh.

I. BELIEVING THAT GOD IS

The writer of Hebrews begins with this: **“He who comes to God must believe that He is.”** This is not just that God exists as an idea, not just that there is “a higher power,” not just that Jesus was a historical figure. It means that God **is real, present, active, and personal**. Faith doesn't begin with asking God for something. Faith begins with trusting **who God is**.

1. God Is Eternal and Unchanging

Do you believe that God exists? I am glad that you do. Do you believe in the God who is **forever PRESENT**? Scripture declares that He was, He is, and He will be forever present without end (That's the meaning of “I AM”—Exodus 3:14, Revelation 1:8). *He is the "I AM."*

*That means He is not a mood, a philosophy, or a force. He is the **Source of all being**—forever present, forever stable.*

Do you also believe that there is **one and the only one true God**, that is the LORD whom we call Jehovah? If not, please listen to what Jehovah God declares to His people. “You are My witnesses,” declares the Lord, “... **know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me**” (Isaiah 43:10).

God has always been. His name is Yahweh—I AM. He is not a creation of human imagination. He was God before the world began, and He will be God long after this world passes away. Faith means we trust that God is not shifting like culture, not fragile like human opinions, not uncertain like our emotions. **He is steady. Stable. Eternal. Unchanging.**

2. God Is With Us — The Incarnation

But the most profound truth of “God is” is found in the **incarnation**. God did not stay far away. God did not simply shout His love from heaven. **He came near. He came in the flesh. He came as Jesus.** The core of our faith is this reality: **“By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh...”** (1 Timothy 3:16)

Early on, some heretics (like those promoting **Docetism**) taught that Jesus only *appeared* to be human—as if He were just a spirit wearing a costume. They denied that Christ had a real body, and that He truly suffered, died, and rose again. (https://biblehub.com/commentaries/1_john/4-2.htm).

John the Apostle wrote fiercely against this denial because it destroys the Gospel. He insisted that the true Spirit of God confesses that **Jesus Christ has come in the flesh** (1 John 4:2).

To emphasize this point, John declared what he and the other disciples experienced:

“What was **from the beginning**, what we have **heard**, what we have **seen** with our eyes, what we have **looked at** and **touched** with our hands, concerning the Word of Life.” (1 John 1:1). Scripture makes it very clear: **The eternal God truly became man.**

Why does Christ ‘come in the flesh’ matter for faith? Because faith isn’t a leap into an idea. It’s a relationship with a **Person**.

A Relationship with a Real God:

- Who really walked the earth, got hungry, and was tempted.
- Who really suffered on the cross and really resurrected from the dead.

- Who really understands you and who really can save you.

To deny the incarnation is to deny the gospel. To embrace it is to embrace God's heart toward us—**that He would rather die for us than live without us.**

3. God Is Personal

Believing God “is” also means believing that He is not distant or indifferent. Many people only come to God like they call 911—“I need help. Fix this.” “God, get me out of this moment.” But God is not looking for emergency-only faith.

He is looking for **relationship faith**. Faith that walks with Him daily. Faith that trusts Him when it's not urgent. Faith that seeks His presence, not just His help. Faith that loves Him, not just His gifts.

The reward of faith is not first what God does for you—**it is God Himself**. Yet, because He is a loving and personal God, the relationship He offers is also marked by His **generous and faithful response** to our pursuit. This leads us to the second pillar of faith.

II. BELIEVING THAT GOD REWARDS

The second part of Hebrews 11:6 says: “... **and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**” This does not mean we earn salvation through good deeds, because salvation is a gift of grace. But God does reward the heart that seeks Him. The Greek word for “rewarder” means: “**One who pays back in full.**”

Not because He owes us anything—but because **He delights to respond to faith.**

1. God Rewards Seekers, Not Spectators

God rewards those who **seek Him**, not those who observe from a distance. There is a difference between a simple believer and a genuine seeker.

- A believer *acknowledges* God.
- A seeker *pursues* God.
- A believer knows about God.
- A seeker wants to know His heart.
- A believer accepts God's existence.
- A seeker rearranges life around His presence.

Listen to God's promise to the seekers:

Jeremiah 29:13 says: **“You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”** God rewards that kind of seeking— with His presence, His voice, His wisdom, His peace, His strength, His guidance.

2. God Rewards Obedience

Jesus said the measure we use will be measured back to us. Paul said whatever a man sows, he will reap. This is not prosperity gospel. This is **biblical reality**. When we sow forgiveness, we reap peace. When we sow generosity, we reap joy. When we sow obedience, we reap blessing. When we sow faith, we reap reward. God never ignores a heart that seeks Him.

3. God Rewards the One Who Comes

The same verse says: **“He who comes to God...”** Not “he who tries harder.” Not “he who is perfect.” Not “he who has no doubts.” **But the one who comes.** The one who returns. The one who says, “Lord, I need You.” The one who humbles themselves. The one who keeps coming, keeps trusting, keeps believing. God rewards the one who comes.

III. THE ADVENT CONNECTION —

This brings us back to Advent. When we say, “We believe that God is,” we are saying: **We believe that God has come. We believe that God has drawn near. We believe that God has entered our world.** And when we say, “He rewards those who seek Him,” we are saying: **Those who come to Bethlehem, those who come to Christ, will never leave empty.** Salvation has a name. Hope has a name. Love has a name. Light has a name. **His name is Jesus.**

Bethlehem — The Promise Kept

God promised a Savior. He promised a Redeemer. He promised He would come. And in Bethlehem, God kept His promise. Not in a palace, but in a manger. Not to the proud, but to shepherds. Not to the powerful, but to the humble. Not to the deserving, but to the broken.

This is why faith matters. Because nothing about the Christmas story makes sense without faith. But when you have faith—everything about the Christmas story becomes the anchor of hope.

IV. APPLICATION — A CALL TO FAITH

So, what do we do with Hebrews 11:6 today?

1. Believe God Is Who He Says He Is. Not who culture says. Not who your fears say. Not who your past says. But who Scripture says.

2. Seek Him With Your Heart

Not casually. Not occasionally. Not only in crisis. But earnestly. Daily. Personally.

3. Return to Him This Advent

Some of us have allowed distance to grow. Some have let discouragement silence faith. Some have let life become louder than God. Advent is God's invitation to come home. To return to faith. To seek Him again.

Conclusion

Charles Wesley wrote: *"Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity."* (Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, UM Hymnal #240)

This is our faith— Christ is God revealed, God with us, God for us, and God redeeming us.

So today, Believe that Christ has come in the flesh. Believe that He is with you. Believe that He is faithful. Believe that He rewards. Believe that His promises stand. Believe that He will come again. **Believe that Jesus is the hope of the world, and the hope of your life.**

Amen.