

Episode #501 How to Know God 2: Glory of Believing

I. The “Knowing God in the Word Radio Program” is for the purpose of helping listeners to fulfill the greatest need we have as believers – to know God.

II. In our last program, we emphasized the need to know God. This can only happen through a relationship to Him. Yet how does one enter into a relationship with God?

III. When we are entering into a relationship with a possible marriage partner, we do things to try to impress the other person. Jesus Christ has given Himself and died for us...very impressive! But what can we do to try to impress Him?

IV. It is faith that impresses God.

A. God is pleased by faith.

1. Hebrews 11:6. It is impossible to please God without faith.
2. God wants diligence in seeking Him, just like in courtship.
3. Hebrews 11:1. Faith allows us to believe in the God we have never seen.

B. Faith comes by the word of God.

1. The Greek word for faith is *pistis*. The same word is translated belief.
2. Romans 10:17. Faith comes from hearing the word of God and believing it.

V. But why isn't doing good enough?

A. Isaiah 64:6. All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.

B. Matthew 5:48. God is perfect, so to please Him that way, we would have to be perfect, not just more good than bad.

VI. Why is it faith that God looks for?

A. It probably goes back to the beginning.

B. Genesis 2:16-17. The command. One tree not to eat of. An opportunity to believe.

C. Genesis 3:1-5. The temptation not to believe God.

D. Genesis 3:6. Eve believes Satan, and eats the fruit. Eve failed to believe in God's judgment, His government, His righteousness, and His goodness.

E. Adam's sin was different. I Timothy 2:14. Adam was not deceived. He knew the fruit was poison. He must have decided he would rather die with Eve than live without her. He thought God was heartlessly brush Eve aside without a second thought. Adam failed to believe in God's love and grace.

F. God's justice was trustworthy: the fruit corrupted the human race. God's love was also trustworthy: He did not leave us to be destroyed. Since the first breach of our relationship with God was caused by a lack of faith, it is by faith that we now can restore our relationship with God.

VII. There were only two things that caused Jesus Christ to marvel.

A. Matthew 8:10. He marveled at great faith in one who He had every reason not to expect to find it.

B. Mark 6:6. He marveled at unbelief in those who He had every reason to expect would believe.

VIII. To impress God, the thing we need to have is faith. The way we develop faith is through God's Word. Let us all study to be approved by God! II Timothy 2:15.