

“The Keys to Pleasing God”

March 29, 2020

Scripture Text: Hebrews 11:6 NLT *And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.*

When God created us from the dust of the ground, it was with divine intent for us to bear His image and likeness. He gave us a body, soul, spirit, free will and **a measure of faith** to be exercised with unquestionable faith in Him. Man was a perfect and holy representation of God, who had created him for continual fellowship and unrestricted discourse.

God knew that man in his **self-need** required a mate in like manner as He had provided for all other male & female created beings. God created woman from a rib of Adam and with the same dust of the ground. He clothed her in human flesh in the likeness of the first man (Adam). Adam named the woman Eve, **the mother of all living**. In God's provision, He placed them in a garden called **Eden** with everything they needed with only one restriction (**Do touch the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**). If disobeyed, death would surely come upon them. It was a perfect wholesome, innocent and carefree world with continual communication in the fellowship of God.

The time came, when faith in what God had said, took a back seat as a result of the enemy's appeal to Eve to question and doubt the authenticity of God's Word. With their free will, they chose to disregard what God had desired for them by yielding to temptation from the suggestions of the serpent (**Genesis 3 NKJV**). Their sin launched the first pandemic... Death came upon them and every living creature. For mankind it was the start of the War of the Human Will to believe God above human intellect and evil.

Since the days of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the enemy has not ceased to sow the seed of doubt in the hearts of mankind. The deed has been done and the seeds are producing a crop of people around the world who scoff at the Word of Truth. There is a spirit of recklessness and abandonment of Truth all over the nations today for

political and financial gain with no thought of being accountable to God.

Nevertheless, there is an awakening around the world for God's intervention in this hour of the testing of our faith. Will we turn our faces toward God in repentance and allow Him to lead us out of this global pandemic or will we prolong the suffering by continual rebellion? The Mercy of God is giving us time to get our houses in order before He returns. **2 Chronicles 7:14-15 NKJV 14** *if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.*

I submit to you “The Keys to Pleasing God.”

Key Number 1

Hebrews 11:6 NLT *And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.*

If we say that there is no God, in essence we are saying that we are not accountable to anyone but ourselves. Without God there is nothing, absolutely nothing. God is Spirit, Truth and Love! It pleases God that we use the measure of faith that we each have been given at birth to grow with unquestionable faith in Him. (Refer to last week's 03/22 message in Faith of Our Fathers.) It was in that measure of faith that we heard and believed in God's Son, Jesus. It was in that measure of faith that we were **Justified**. It was in the measure of faith that we were **Saved**. It was in that measure of faith that we were **Sanctified**. It shall be in that measure of faith that shall take us to **Glory**. **Luke 9:35 NKJV** *And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!* (Peter, John and James had joined Jesus in retreat to a mountain to pray and they observed the Lord speaking with Moses and Elijah). Their noble thought was to build tabernacles rather than look to Jesus to build the tabernacle of God in men through Jesus. If there was ever a time that we need to hear from the Lord it is now. **The Proverbs 3:6-7 NKJV 6** *In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.* Our reward comes when we have sincerely sought Him and He is directing our

path. Our confidence is in His ability to keep us in perfect peace as we endure the times of the testing of our faith. **Isaiah 26:3 NKJV** “*You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.*”

Key Number 2

Romans 12:1 ESV “*I appeal to you therefore, brothers by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*”

As much as we desire to be the master of our bodies, in reality they do not belong to us, for we did not create them. We are simply stewards of our body. Look at it this way, you rent a house or an apartment to dwell in. You have an address that declares your residency but you are not the owner. You are the renter with the stewardship of maintaining the owners property in the condition in which you received it or better. You may think that by paying rent it gives you the liberty to treat it any way that suits you but you will have to pay for damages or any modifications that were not authorized by the owner.

1Corinthians 6:20 NKJV “*For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.*”

We may be guilty in many ways of excess in these bodies by over indulging in things that are not spiritually beneficial for kingdom living and bringing glory to God. God takes delight when His Children can offer the sacrifice of praise with the fruit of their lips especially during our time of waiting on the Lord’s intervention. **Hebrews 13:15 NKJV** “*Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*” We will never be guilty of excessive praise to the Living God who holds us with eternity in the palm of His hands. To hold back the praise that is due Him is to hold back the joy of His presence and our strength. The bible says, “**Let everything that breathe Praise the Lord; Praise the Lord!**” **Psalms 150:6 NKJV**

Key Number 3

Hebrews 13:16 NKJV “*But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*”

It's a known fact the a pandemic crisis brings the best and the worst out of individuals. Charity or Greed comes to the center of the boxing ring to do battle but only one will leave the ring with the victory. I'm thankful for this time that God has given us to examine our hearts to see if we are people of faith and have love for our fellow man.

Several weeks ago, I was grocery shopping and I went to put my items in the trunk. I told a young couple as they were passing by that they could have my cart because there were very few available. They said, "Sure, thank you!" They began to help unload the cart placing items into the trunk of my car. I told them that I could handle it, but they were committed to helping this stranger. While they were helping me I thanked them, thanked the Lord and thought how considerate they were to have helped me.

Romans 15:1-6 NKJV *1. We then who are strong ought to bear with the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." 4. For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6. that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Key Number 4

1 John 3:22 *And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

Applications:

God is fully committed to us and He has given us everything we need to be pleasing to Him.

Let us in return, be fully committed to Him by blessing each other.