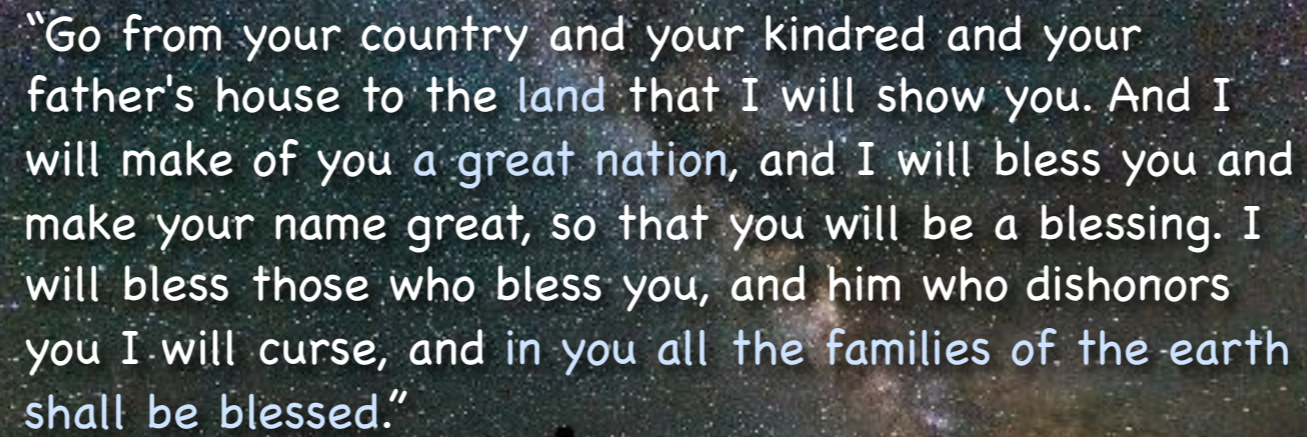




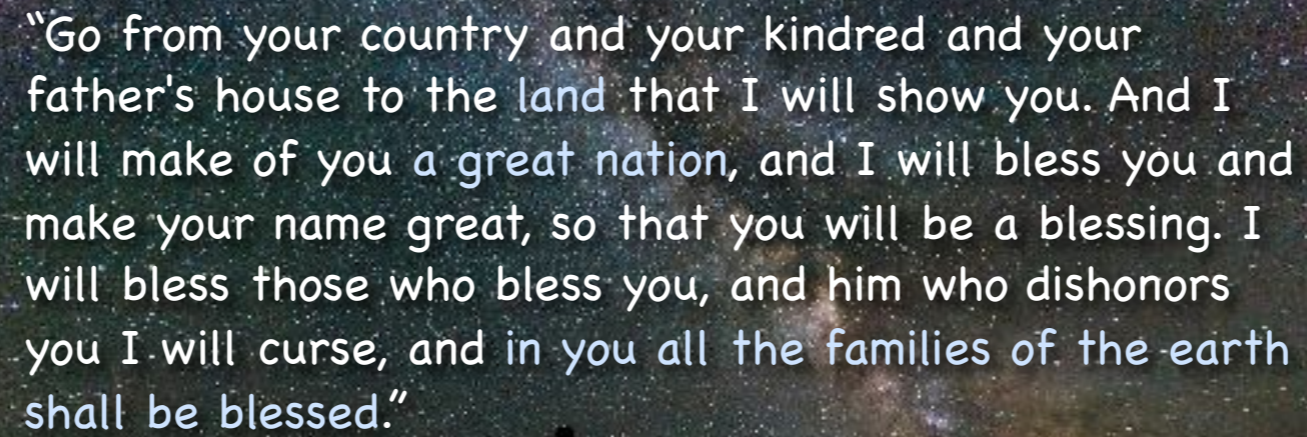
- Faith Counts!

A night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a person sitting on a rock or mountain peak. The text is overlaid on the sky.

“Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12:1-3, OT p. 16

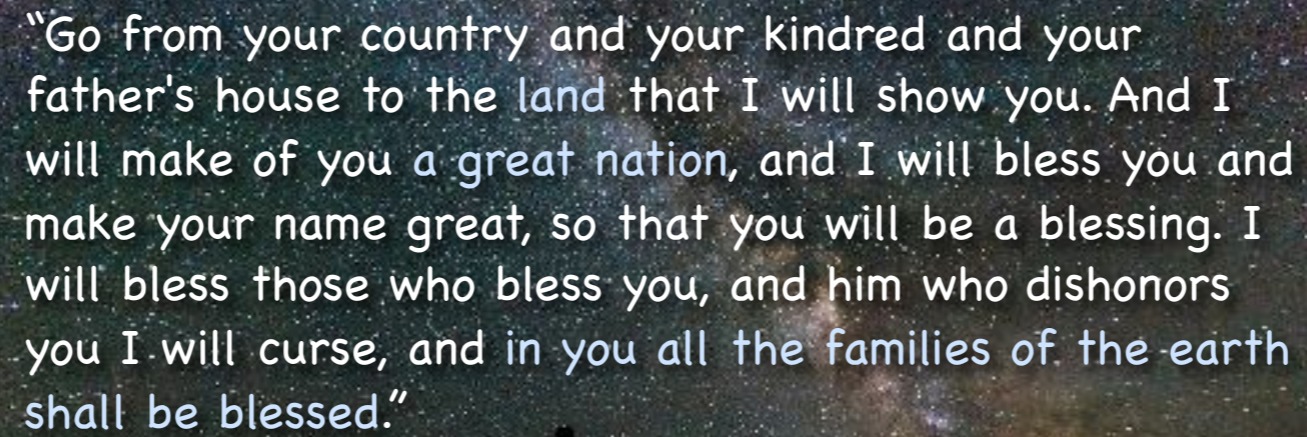
- Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV) 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

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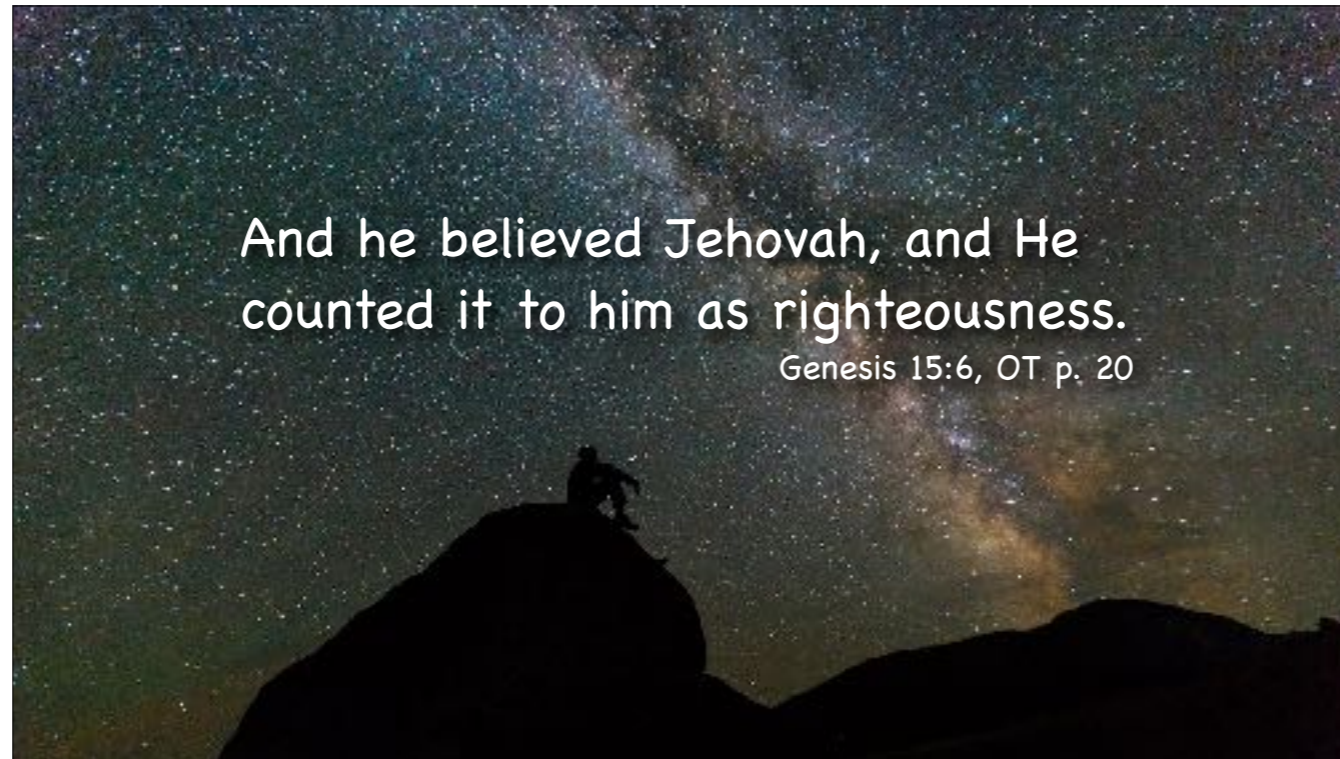
- Hebrews 11:8-12 (ESV) 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

A night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a person sitting on a rock or mountain peak. The text is overlaid on the sky.

“Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12:1-3, OT p. 16

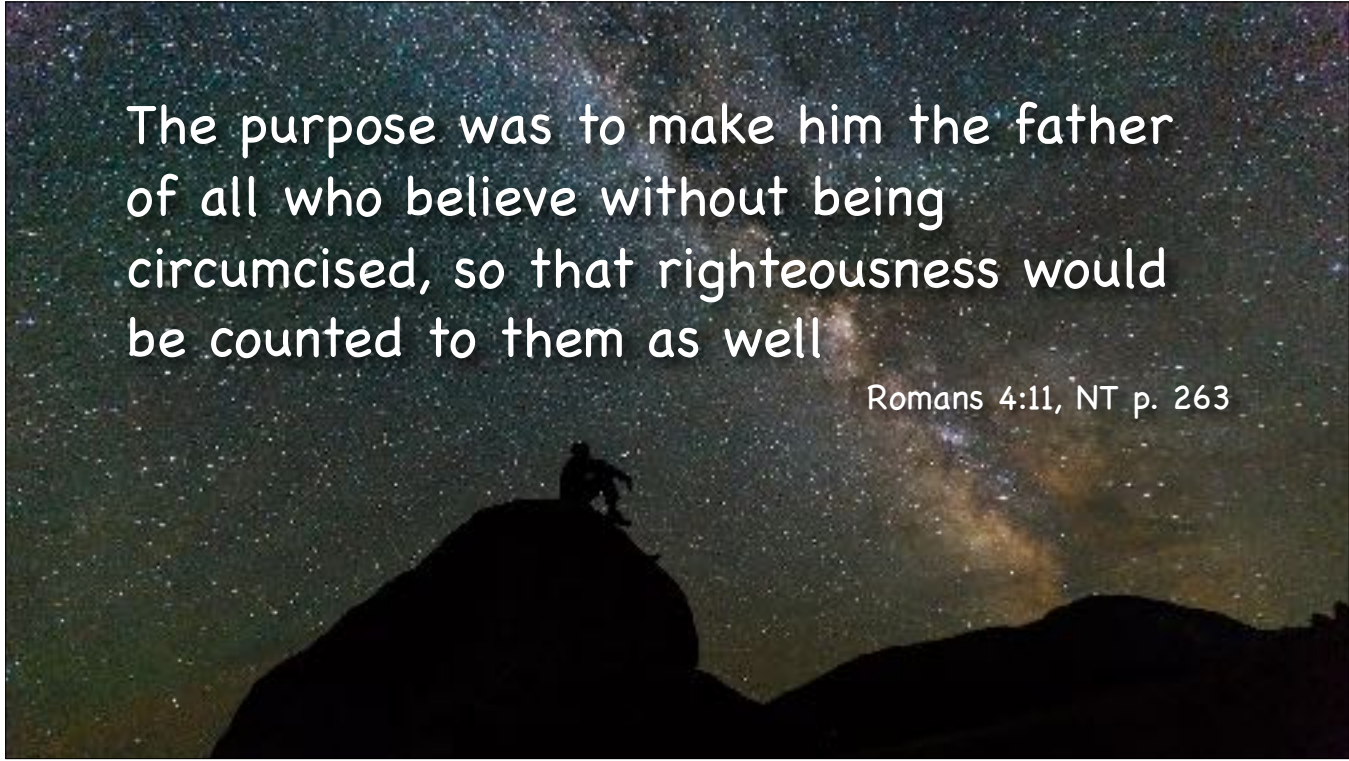
- Hebrews 11:13-14 (ESV) 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.



And he believed Jehovah, and He
counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:6, OT p. 20

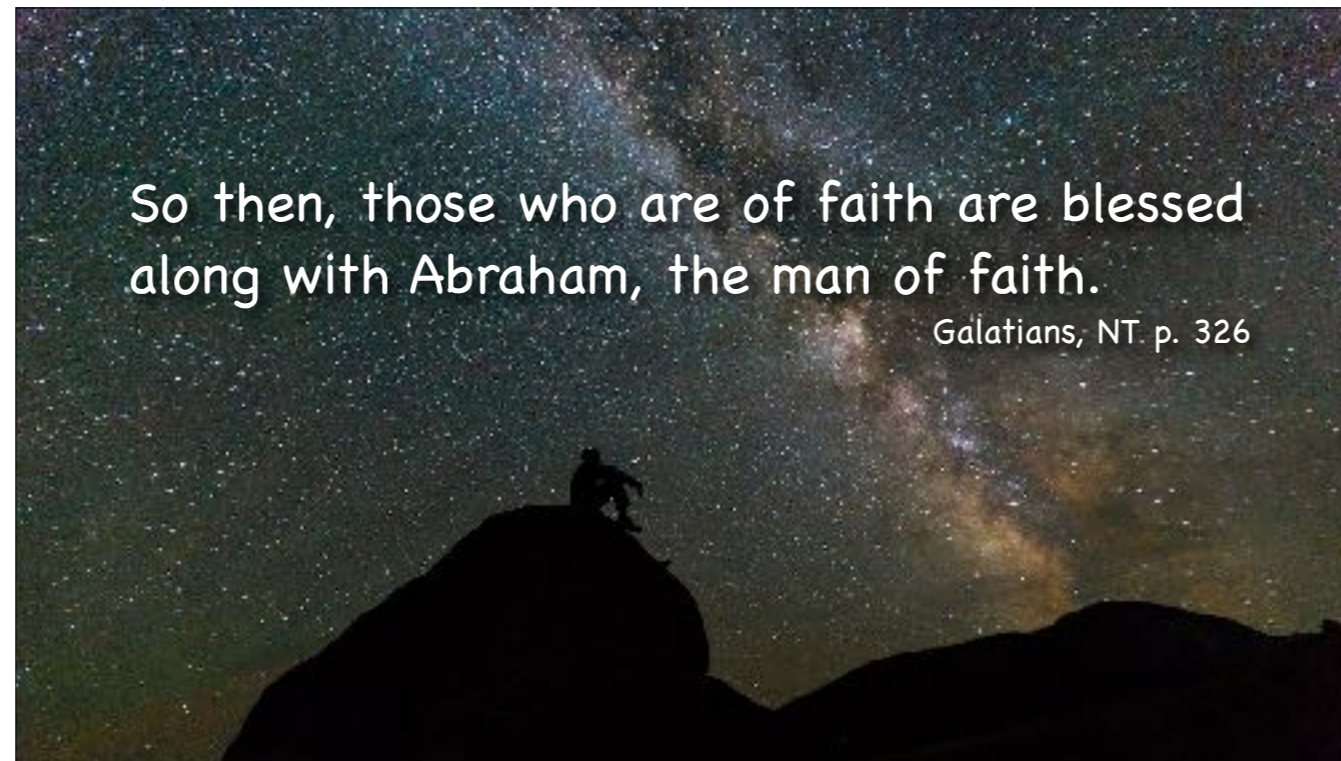
- Genesis 15:6 (ESV) And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.
- Quoted 5 X in NT: Romans 4:3, 9, 22; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23
- Alluded to Hebrews 11:12

A night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a person sitting on a rock or mountain peak. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

The purpose was to make him the father
of all who believe without being
circumcised, so that righteousness would
be counted to them as well

Romans 4:11, NT p. 263

- Romans 4:11 (ESV): He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of **all who believe** without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well,



So then, those who are of faith are blessed
along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians, NT. p. 326

- Galatians 3:9 (ESV) So then, those who are of **faith** are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.



Why does Jehovah count FAITH as RIGHTEOUSNESS?

- Why does God count FAITH as RIGHTEOUSNESS???
 - Count (Heb)
 - BDB: to think, plan, esteem, calculate, invent, make a judgment, imagine, count
 - (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary) . Here the term has the meaning of "to be imputed."
 - Count (Greek)
 - Thayer: to reckon, count, compute, calculate, count over
 - (CWSB Dictionary) In Rom. 4:11, the expression is used as a technical term applied to God's act of justification which is more fully explained in verse six. It is that imputation of righteousness whose correlative is freedom from guilt, and the emphasis clearly rests upon "it is counted" (Rom. 4:10, 23, 24).
 - (TDNT - Abridged) In Gen. 15:6 God reckons faith as righteousness because he is pleased to do so and not because it has intrinsic worth.
 - (TDNT - Abridged) The Greek term *logízesthai* fits in with this trend, for while it embraces the idea of imputation, it also carries with it the idea of recognition, which implies that faith is also a merit. Jms. 2:23 breaks with this trend by stressing, not the meritoriousness of faith, but its commitment to action. Paul makes an even more decisive break in Rom. 4:3ff., where he is plainly playing off the Hebraic *logízesthai* of the LXX against the Greek use, as may be seen by his contrasting of gift and debt (v. 4). The presupposition here is that the very question why faith should be reckoned for righteousness is a false one unless an answer is sought in the grace of the cross. The point of faith is that in it believers subject themselves to divine judgment and mercy and are ready to live by divine grace. On the basis of the cross righteousness is now the true reality, so that this imputation is no fiction. The reality of God's assessment thus serves as a norm of action. Believers become new creatures by God's *logízesthai*, which carries with it the imparting of the Spirit (Gal. 3:2ff.). Paul, then, restores Gen. 15:6 to its true sense, corrects the trend supported by the Greek sense of *logízesthai*, and presents *dikaioún* and *logízesthai* as complementary terms whereby God the Judge is also God the Father.

Jesus sees our faith.

And when he SAW their faith, he said,
"Man, your sins are forgiven you."

Luke 5:20, NT p. 107

- Luke 5:20 (ESV) And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

Jesus marvels at our faith.

When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."

Luke 7:9, NT p. 112

- Luke 7:9 (ESV) When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."



Jesus is pleased with our faith.

And without faith it is impossible to PLEASE him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6; NT p. 389

- Hebrews 11:6: And without faith it is impossible to **please** him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
- Please = to gratify entirely



Jesus is pleased with our faith.

Praise

Magnify

And without faith it is impossible to PLEASE him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6; NT p. 389

- What pleases God? What does He delight in?
- Psalms 69:30-31: I will **praise** the name of God with a song; I will **magnify** him with thanksgiving. 31 This will **please** the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.

Jesus is pleased with our faith.

Praise
Obey
Magnify
Listen

And without faith it is impossible to PLEASE him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6; NT p. 389

- 1 Samuel 15:22: And Samuel said, “Has Jehovah as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Behold, to **obey** is better than sacrifice, and to **listen** than the fat of rams.

Jesus is pleased with our faith.

Praise
Obey
Magnify
Listen
Do justice
Love kindness
Walk humbly

And without faith it is impossible to PLEASE him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6; NT p. 389

- Micah 6:7-8 (ESV) 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to **do justice**, and to **love kindness**, and to **walk humbly** with your God?

Jesus is pleased with our faith.

Praise
Obey
Magnify
Listen
Do justice
Love kindness
Walk humbly

And without faith it is impossible to PLEASE him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6; NT p. 389

- This is not about just about validity of sacrifices (commanded!), but about what is behind the sacrifice.
- Genesis 4:3-5 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had **regard** for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had **no regard**. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.



Jesus is pleased with our faith.

Praise

Obey

Do justice

Magnify

Listen

Love kindness

Walk humbly

And without faith it is impossible to PLEASE him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6; NT p. 389

- Hebrews 11:4: By **faith** Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, **God commending him by accepting his gifts**. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.
- God accepts sacrifices that are offered by faith in God.
- It is the Faith that pleases God, not the offering.

Jesus is pleased with our faith.

Praise
Obey
Magnify
Listen
Do justice
Love kindness
Walk humbly

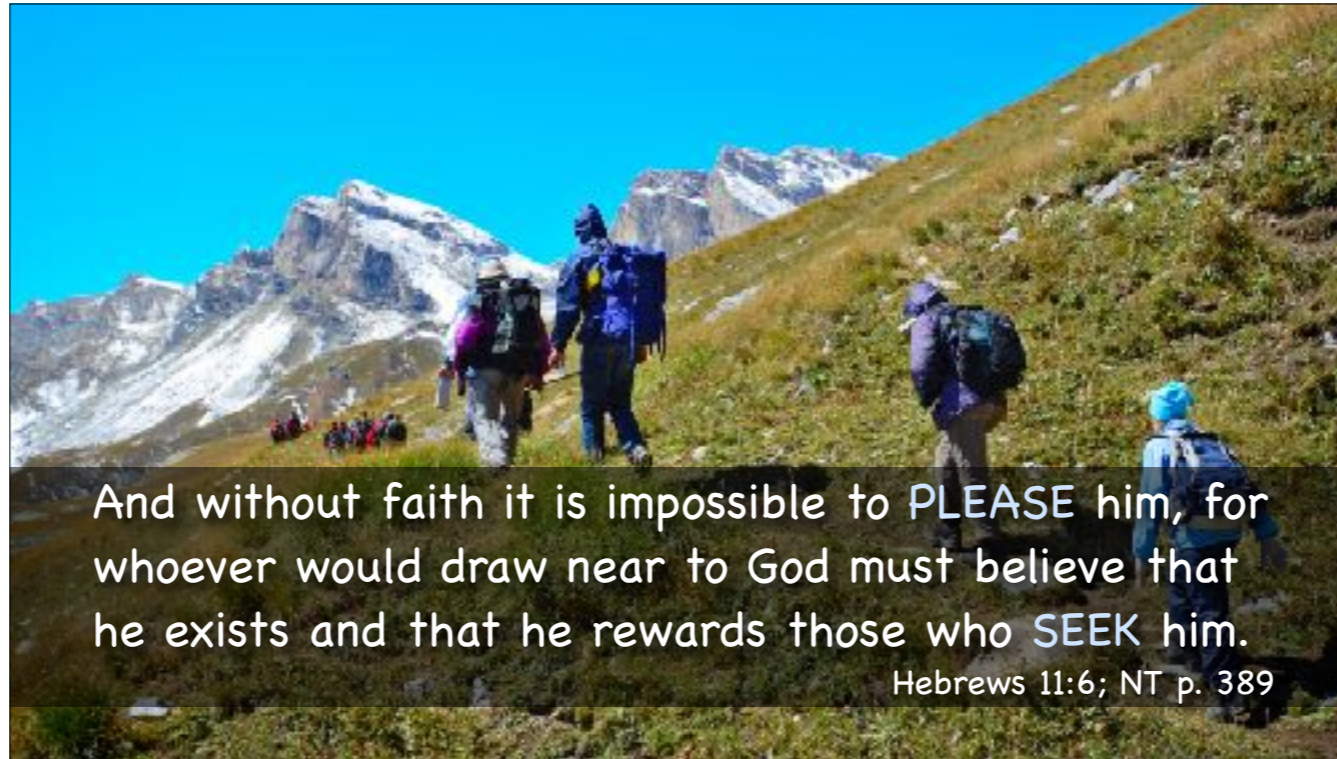
And without faith it is impossible to PLEASE him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6; NT p. 389

- It is the Faith that pleases God, not the offering.
 - This is why God is pleased by faith, not by works.
 - We can easily deceive ourselves (like Cain) that I just have to do certain things and God must be pleased with me.
 - But God doesn't just want burnt offerings, or my money, or my reluctant obedience.
 - He wants me to be His.



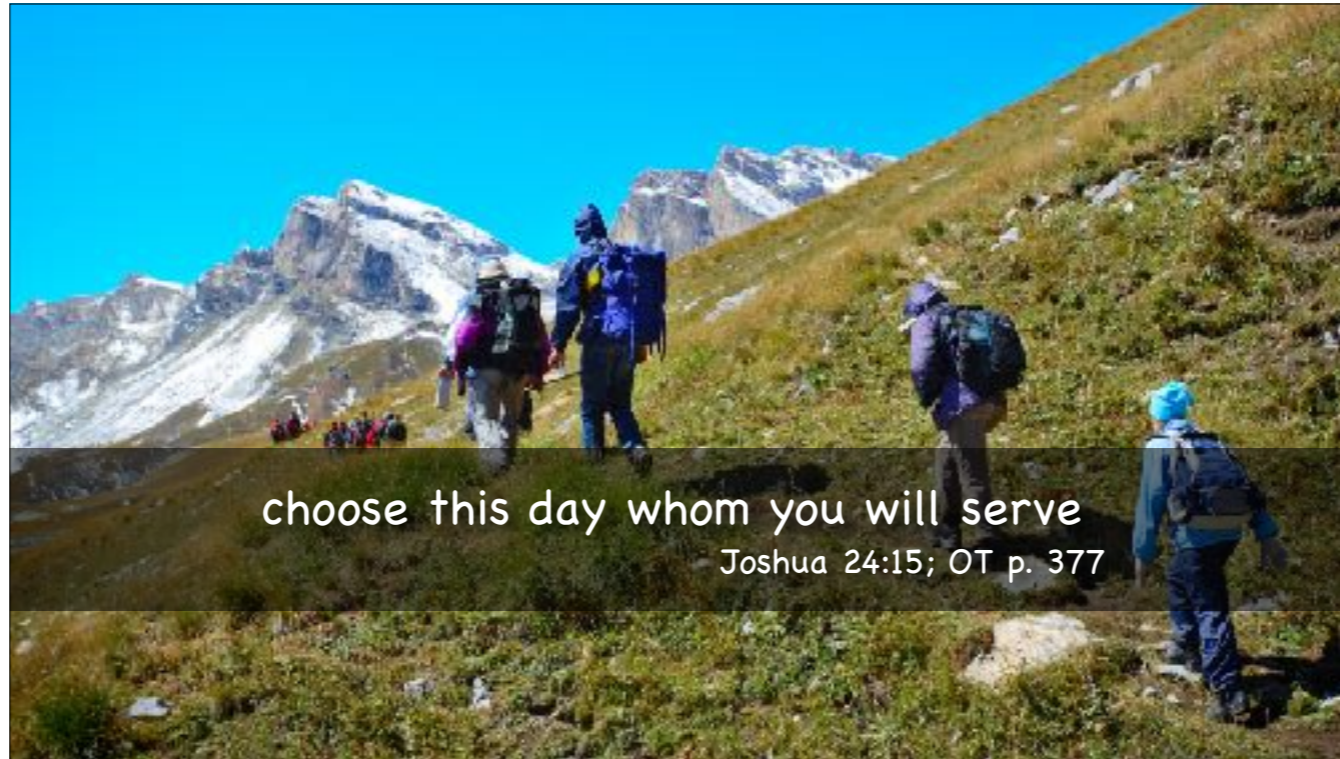
- Why Does Faith Please God?



And without faith it is impossible to PLEASE him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who SEEK him.

Hebrews 11:6; NT p. 389

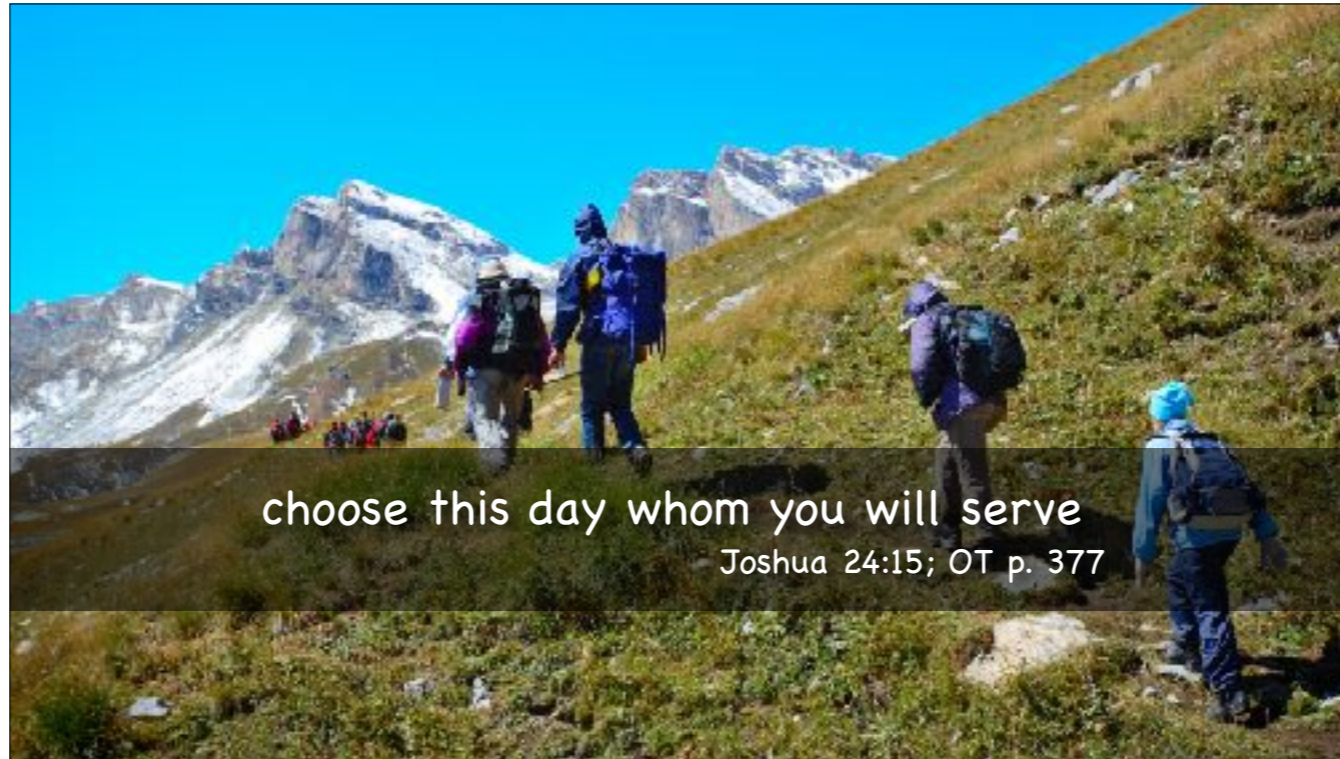
- Hebrews 11:6: And without faith it is impossible to PLEASE him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who SEEK him.



choose this day whom you will serve

Joshua 24:15; OT p. 377

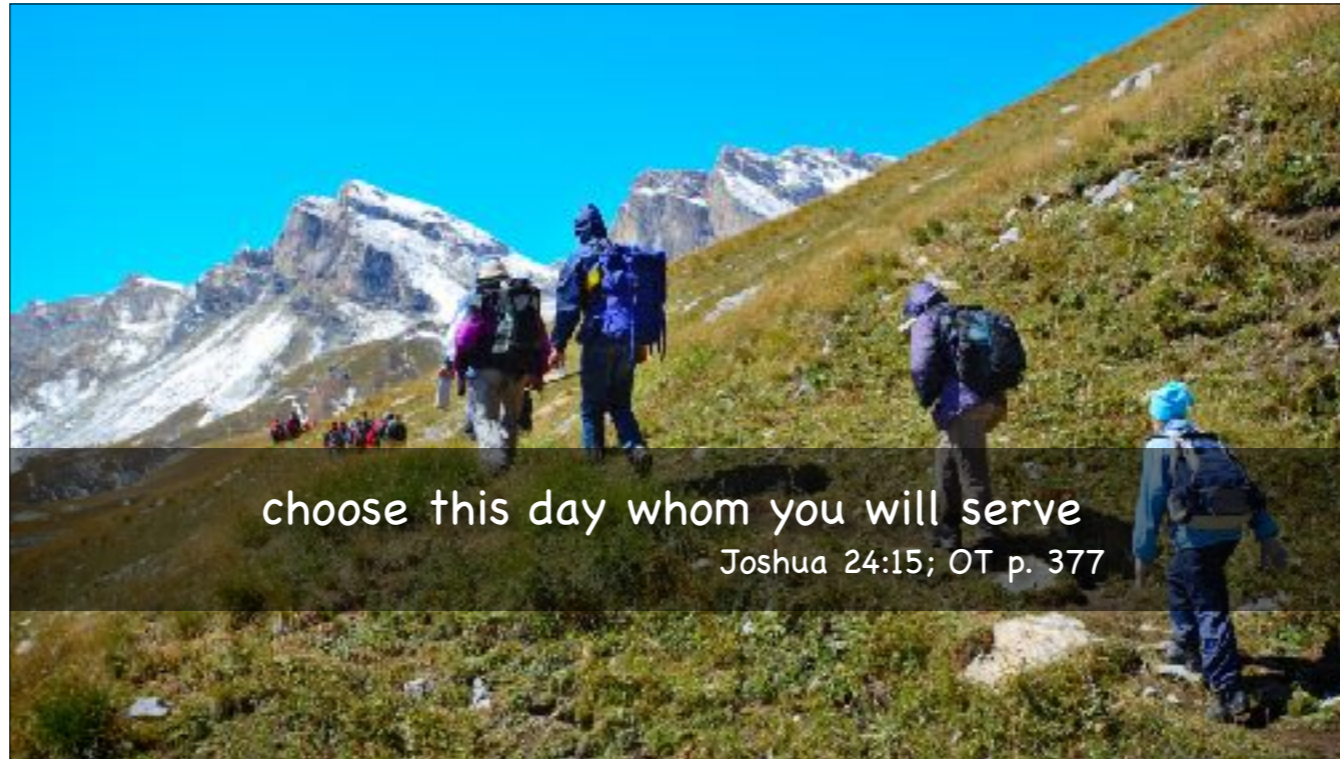
- Joshua 24:15: And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
- Since creation our Father has given each of us the choice of who we will serve.



choose this day whom you will serve

Joshua 24:15; OT p. 377

- Consider Adam and Eve in Garden
 - Father provided everything for them.
 - But they chose to question him, rebel against Him
- True for all of us.
 - Romans 3:23: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God



choose this day whom you will serve

Joshua 24:15; OT p. 377

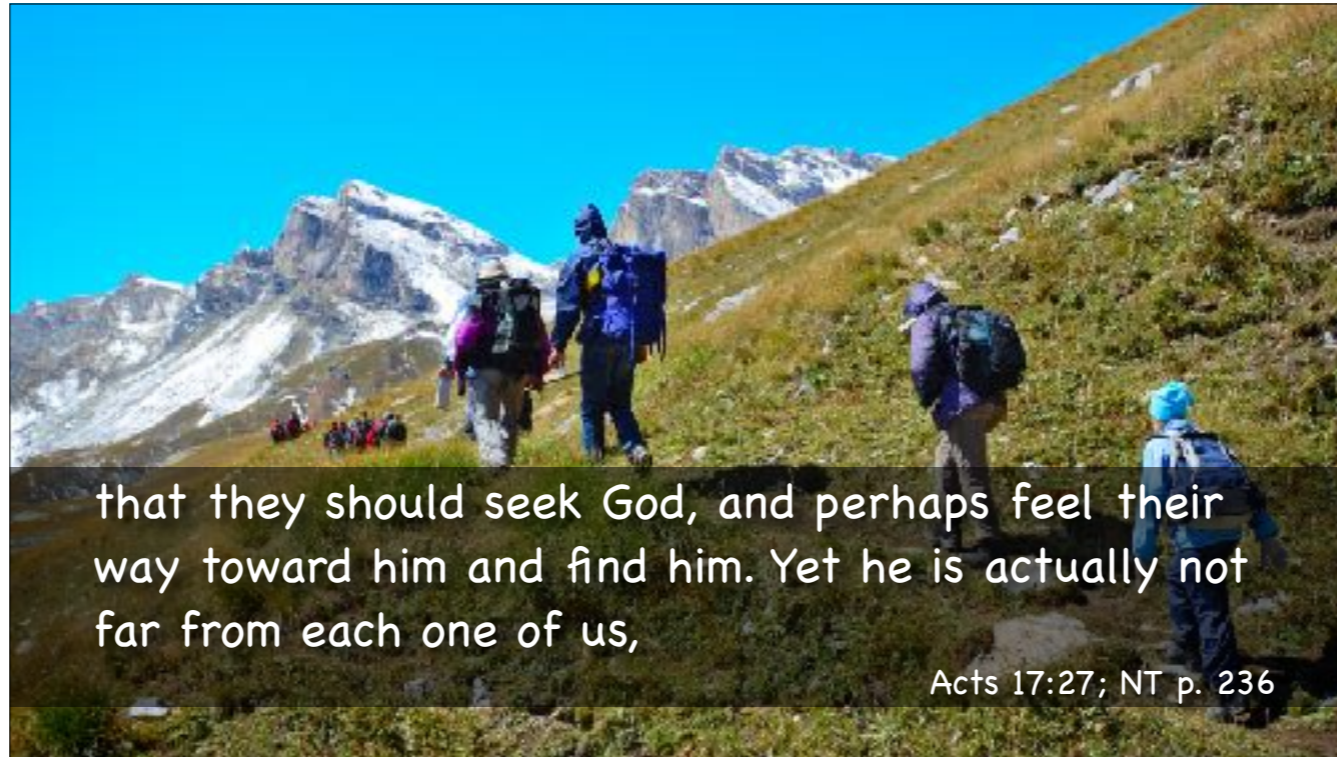
- This is the greatest challenge we have in this life... I've chosen against God, I've sinned.
- How can a get back in a right relationship with Him?
- What will please God???



For the Son of Man came to
seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:10; NT p. 141

- Luke 19:10: For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
- Romans 3:21-26 (ESV) 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

Acts 17:27; NT p. 236

- Acts 17:27: that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,
- Why should I seek God when I know I've done wrong?
- Genesis 15:1 (NKJV) 1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."
- Psalm 103: Our Father is in the business of forgiveness!!!

Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and forget not all his
benefits, who **FORGIVES** all your iniquity

Psalm 103:2-3; OT p. 956



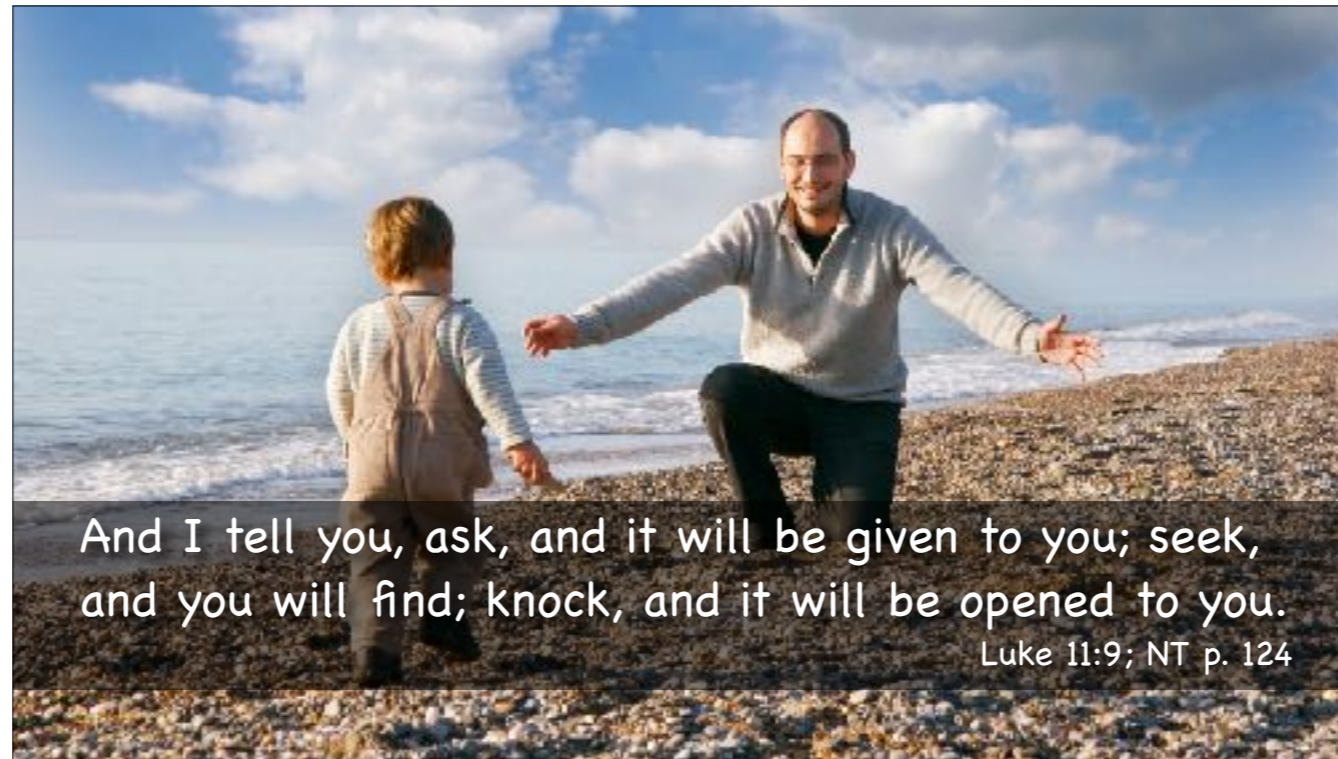
- Psalms 103:2-3 (ESV) 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
- 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and forget not all his
benefits, who **FORGIVES** all your iniquity

Psalm 103:2-3; OT p. 956



- 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.
- 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
- 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.



And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek,
and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Luke 11:9; NT p. 124

- Luke 11:9-10 (ESV) 9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.
- God wants us to choose to Him.



- He wants us to choose to
 - Know Him (He Exists.... but more character: forgives)
 - Trust Him (He rewards ... faith)
 - Follow Him (obey him, walk in Him) (more next week!)
- Seeking Him ... This kind of faith pleases our Father!



- When we choose to seek God with our whole heart, soul, and mind, that pleases him because it is the response of faith.
- Faith Counts!
- Basketball, even a slop shot counts.



- When we honor and glorify God that pleases him because it is the response of faith.
- Faith Counts!



- When we obey and listen to God that pleases him because it is the response of faith.
- Faith Counts!



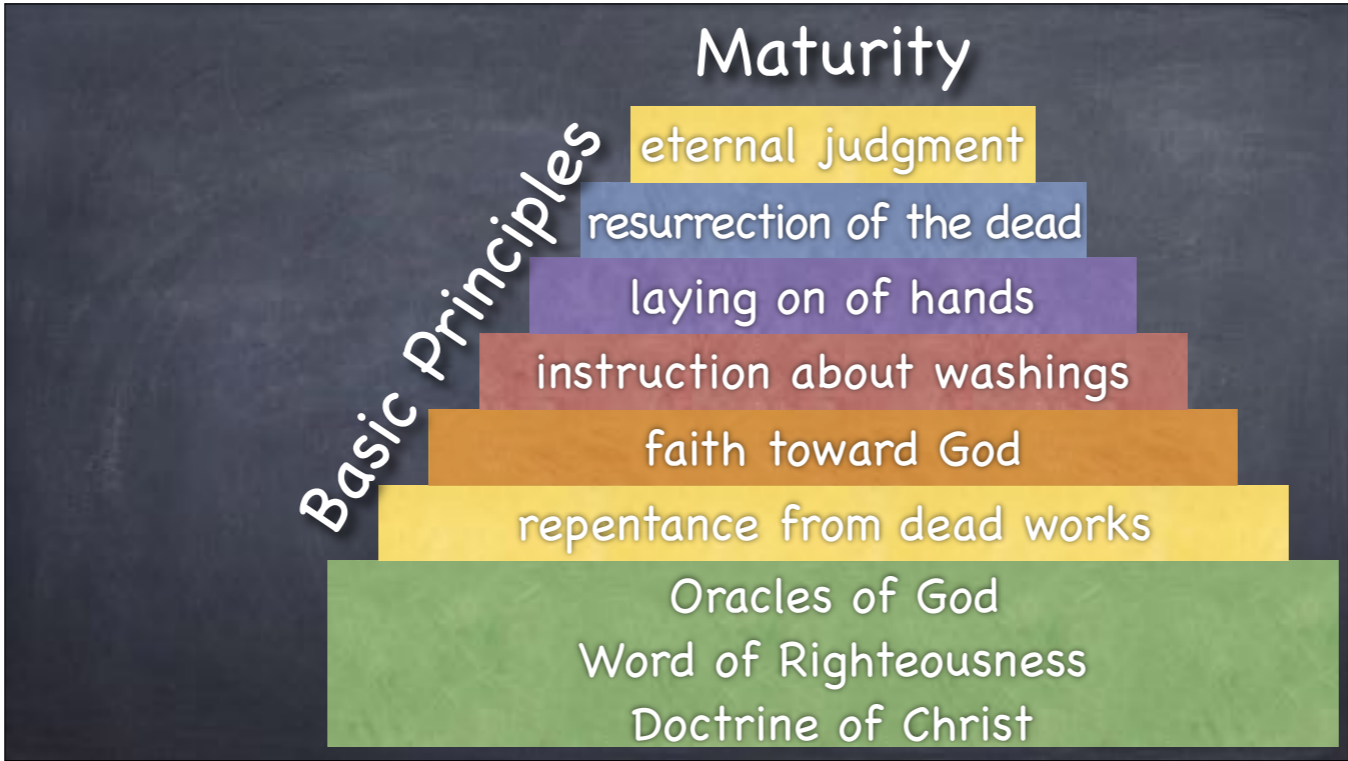
- When we live righteous lives (justice, kindness and humility) that pleases God because it is the response of faith.
- Faith changes my life!
- Faith Counts!



- 1 Peter 1:8-9 (ESV) 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20



- text

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Faith Counts!

Genesis 15:6

Synopsis: Jehovah counted Abraham's faith as righteousness, and tells us that it is an example for all who believe. In this lesson, we'll learn about why faith counts as righteousness, and why faith pleases our Father.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."