

Better (Hebrews)

Sermon Questions | 05.10.15

Opener

As you consider the people in our small group, what's one positive adjective you would use to describe each person here today?

Read

Hebrews 10:38-39

Hebrews 11: 1-16

Engaging with God in a Group

Ask a couple of people to volunteer reading Hebrews 10:38-11:16 out loud for the group.

As we read Hebrews 11:6 “without faith it is impossible to please God”, we have a double negative. how could you rephrase this verse to make it a positive one?

Based on reading Hebrews 10:38-11:16, what's the difference between trying to lead a life pleasing God and one of trusting God?

Imagine you are running a marathon and your course takes you down the “trying to please God” path. Much like water stations on a marathon route, you encounter several kinds of tables:

- Bible reading table – plans, discipline, consistency, translations
- Giving table – 10%, 10% +, joyful giving, what % pleases him
- Sin management table – try to stop sinning, accountability, strategy, shame
- Parenting – how to raise kids that make God proud

The problem with all the tables is that there are multiple opinions to pleasing the Lord. The trying trail is a discouraging one!

In what way(s) might the “trust God path” be better than the “please God path”? As a group, re-read Hebrews 11:1-16. Select one of the people mentioned and as a group, summarize how that person pleased God. Now, brainstorm a list of modern day examples of believers trusting Jesus (ones similar the examples of ancient believers in Hebrews 11:1-16).

Engaging with God Alone

How is Jesus asking you to trust him today? Who might you ask to join you in prayer?

Closing thoughts and prayer

Lord, direct us to trust you which is so much better than trying to please you. Trusting is what pleases you. It is by faith in you that we are saved.