

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. We hope you've been enjoying our current series, 'How to succeed at the most important job of your life'. So far, we've defined the job and the qualifications, and then centered in on 'how to please our boss'. The key to pleasing our spiritual boss, God, is by having faith in Him. We prove our faith by what we do. Since illustrations make the best teachers, we'll first take a look at some Biblical examples of people who pleased God because of their faith.

Webster defines faith as, 'belief that is not based on proof or facts'. In a way I agree with that, but when it comes to the spiritual realm, I believe there IS proof. God has proven that He keeps His promises – and that's a fact. Therefore, faith in God is a matter of believing what He says will occur and acting on that belief. This is called obedience. Disobedience on the other hand is, as Alexander Maclaren states, the root of unbelief. And unbelief is the mother of further disobedience.

When reading the stories of the Israelites, we see that time after time they displeased God by their grumbling and disobedience. But there is one occasion in which they were commended for their faith. Let's see why. Hebrews 11: 29 says...

By faith, they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land.

Exodus 14:13-22 records this story. The people literally had their backs to the wall. The Egyptians were pursuing them on the one side and they were backed up against the Red Sea on the other. But, God protected them with an angel and a pillar of cloud that blocked them from their enemies. Then He sent a strong east wind all that night, drove back the sea, and made a path of dry land through it. God told Moses to tell them to move on – or forward. He said He would harden the Egyptians' hearts so that they would go in after them and be destroyed.

By faith, the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground with a wall of water on their right and on their left. When the Egyptians pursued them, God, as promised, caused confusion within their army, and made their chariot wheels come off so they had difficulty driving. When they finally realized the LORD was fighting for the Israelites, it was too late. They were drowned in the sea.

I don't believe there is such a thing a 'blind faith'. Even in this case look at what God showed the Israelites before He told them to walk through. He didn't ask them to step into WATER – He made the ground dry. The path was cleared and protection was in place – then He said 'move on'.

But, just saying they believed it was the path to safety wasn't enough. They had to put action behind their words to prove they believed by actually moving on. Their faith literally saved them, just like it saves us spiritually when we outwardly confess the Name of Christ after we've received Him into our heart. Romans 10:9-10 describes the action that proves our faith. It says...

“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you confess and are **SAVED.”**

The crossing of the Israelites through the Red Sea is set forth as the greatest display of God's power in the Old Testament, but the greatest power of ALL TIME is the power God used to raise Christ from the dead. This same power is in us when we accept Christ into our lives and are born again.

***** EASTER SONG *****

Our enemy, satan, is out for our souls. The way to escape his evil is through the only path to God – Jesus. There is no such thing as a silent Believer. Luke 6:45 says...”Out of the heart the mouth speaks.” If you've truly trusted Jesus as your Savior, you won't be able to be quiet about what He has done for you. You'll break down the barriers. You'll step out. You'll speak His Name.

Now, let's see how we can relate this example of demonstrated faith to our lives. Matthew 7:13-14 says that the road to God and life is strait and narrow. It also says that the road to destruction is broad and many follow it. It's our choice. According to John Gill's commentary, the word 'strait' is meant Christ, Himself. He also calls Himself the WAY, the TRUTH, the LIFE and the DOOR.

The Israelites could have chosen to return with the Egyptians to what they were used to and what they later mistakenly considered the better choice. And though they might have enjoyed tastier food, they would still have been in bondage, slaves to an oppressive rule. The path provided by God offered them release from that bondage.

Hebrews 11:25-26 says that Moses was commended for his faith when he refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter and align himself with their culture and beliefs. The verse reads...

He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

It's the same with us. We can chose to enjoy the sinful pleasures of the world and reject God's offer to follow Him, but if we do, we will continue to be in bondage to sin and never receive the rewards awaiting Believers in Christ.

If you are faced with this decision to follow Christ or the world, let me tell you, your choice has eternal ramifications. John 3:16-17 says..

**For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.**

That's the good news = the Gospel. The bad news is in verse 18..

Whoever believes in Him is NOT condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because He has not believed in the Name of God's one and only Son.

God doesn't expect us to accept this in 'blind faith'. He gave us living proof through Christ and written proof through His Word. He just says chose to believe the Good News and 'move forward' on the strait and narrow way – Christ. There may be bumps along the way but God keeps His promises. He'll see us through to the other side and be by us the whole way. Listen to His promises to you...

***** THE PROMISE *****

**You've been listening to Grace Notes. If you've been blessed
By this ministry, please write and tell us at**

Sandbek Ministries

P.O. Box 581 Fallston, MD 21047

or email us through our web site at

www.gracenotesradio.com.

**Join us on our next program where we'll continue with the
topic – 'HOW TO PLEASE YOUR BOSS – FAITH IS THE KEY'.**

Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!