

THE KIND OF FAITH THAT GOD REWARDS

The Kind of Faith That God Rewards

Hebrews 11:1-34/ James 2:14-26

- ✓ Trusting God enough to **DO** what he **SAYS**.

The Kinds Of Faith That God Ignores *Six Modern-Day Definitions Of Faith That Have Nothing To Do With What The Bible Calls Faith*

- (1) **RISK** Taking
Proverbs 22:3 & 27:12/ James 4:13-16

- (2) **POSITIVE** Thinking
1 Thessalonians 5:18/ Psalm 34:18/ Job 1:8 & 3:25-26/ 2 Corinthians 2:5-7

- (3) The Absence of **FEAR**
Mark 14:32-36 & Matthew 26:36-39/ Judges 6:25-27 & 7:9-11

- (4) The Absence of **DOUBT**
Daniel 3:16-18/ Acts 12:5, 12-16/ James 1:6-8

- (5) Believing a set of **FACTS**
Acts 16:30-31/ James 2:19

- (6) **IRRATIONAL**

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 27, 2018

This is our final week of the Spring Quarter. Along with an abbreviated study, you'll take some time to reflect on your group experience and then take Communion together. You will also fill out Feedback Forms about your group experience and your plans for the fall. Growth Groups will take a summer break and resume the week of September 16. Thanks for being a part of your Growth Group and have a great summer!

If you'd like to stay connected this summer, we are offering a wide range of classes between June and August. See end of this homework for a listing and visit northcoastchurch.com/classes for complete class details and to register.

QUICK REVIEW

As you look back at this week's sermon, what stood out, encouraged, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

- 1 Summer is just around the corner! Do you have any special plans, activities or prayer requests for the next few months?
- 2 This weekend Larry gave us "Six modern-day definitions of faith that have nothing to do with what the Bible calls faith." Of the six, which do you think is most common? Which do you fall into most easily?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 As we look back on the Hebrews series and some of the topics covered, take a moment with your group to read and reflect on some teaching points from this series. What are one or two things you remember about each topic?

- **It's not about how much we know, it's about how much we obey.**

Hebrews 5:13-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Train ourselves to know right from wrong and to follow what God says.

John 13:17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

John 14:15 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands.

Matthew 21:28-32 New International Version (NIV)

²⁸ "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹ "'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

³¹ "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

- **Our faith is not necessarily rewarded here on earth.**

John 16:33 New International Version (NIV)

³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

In this world we will face trouble

Hebrews 11:39-40 New International Version (NIV)

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. They were recognized as having great faith but none of them received what was promised.

Genesis 4:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.” ² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

- **Since Jesus is “greater than,” we can boldly draw near to God.**

1 John 2:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Jesus advocates for us. He’s taken care of our sin and because of that we can draw near to him.

1 Timothy 2:5 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, Jesus is our mediator.

- **Salvation has always been by faith and not works.**

Galatians 3:6 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

John 3:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ 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.

Galatians 2:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

- **Faith without works is still worthless.**

James 2:26 New International Version (NIV)

²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Ephesians 2:8-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

1 John 2:3-6 New International Version (NIV)

³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him:⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?

Which of the above teaching points is most important for you to remember?

REMEMBERING HOW GOD WORKED

1 Looking back at this past quarter and year, how has your Growth Group experience helped your walk with Jesus? Can you think of any Growth Group prayers God has answered?

2 Jesus knows we forget things, even when it comes to what he’s done for us. That’s why Jesus told the disciples at the Last Supper to repeatedly come together and take Communion. Taking Communion is about remembering all that Christ accomplished through his death on the cross and resurrection. It is through this sacrifice that Jesus’ grace and mercy are made available to us.

This week, your Growth Group will conclude by taking Communion together as the disciples did. To prepare for this, read the following verses and reflect on Jesus’ commitment and work in your life as you follow him.

1 Peter 2:22-25 New International Version (NIV)

²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Romans 5:7-11 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!¹⁰ For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 New International Version (NIV)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

SUMMER SERIES EVENTS

Is There Evidence For God?*

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER HILKEN

Is it reasonable to believe in God? What about faith in the face of science or evil? These are just some of the questions Christopher will tackle, helping us engage our culture with reason and humility.

Friday, June 15, 6-9pm

New Testament Fly-By*

PASTOR CHRIS BROWN

Come hear the entire story of the New Testament in just one evening. Chris will bring to life all 27 books in a way you've never heard before!

Friday, July 20, 7-9pm

Fight Night

DRS. LES AND LESLIE PARROTT

A fun-filled date night event with humor, fresh insight and practical new strategies for turning conflict into a means for deeper intimacy.

Friday, August 10, 7-9pm

Real Man Breakfast

SPEAKER: FORMER NAVY SEAL

CHAD WILLIAMS

Saturday, August 18, 8:15am

Men's Event

The Breathing Room

SPEAKER: MARIE OSBORNE

WORSHIP: LIERIN SCHMIDT

Friday, June 29, 7pm

Women's Event

*Live at Vista Campus and simulcast at Carlsbad, Fallbrook and San Marcos/Escondido.

Registration info can be found online at northcoastchurch.com/classes

SUMMER CLASSES

MARRIAGE

Dynamic Marriage	Carlsbad	June 4 - July 30, 7pm
Introduction to Marriage	San Marcos/ Escondido	July 12, 6:30pm
How to Win More Arguments	San Marcos/ Escondido	July 26, 6:30pm
Sex and Intimacy in Marriage	San Marcos/ Escondido	August 2, 6:30pm

PARENTING

Love & Logic: Toddlers	San Marcos/ Escondido	June 21, 6pm
Love & Logic: Elementary Age	San Marcos/ Escondido	June 25, 6pm
Love & Logic: Junior High/High School	San Marcos/ Escondido	July 5, 6pm
On Purpose Parenting: The Early Years	Vista	July 12, 7pm
Reset: Parent/Teen Prep for School Year	Fallbrook	August 9

SPIRITUAL / PERSONAL GROWTH

A Closer Look at Islam	Vista	June 11, 7p
Writing Your Will	San Marcos/ Escondido	June 18, 7pm
Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts	Vista	June 18 & June 25, 7pm
Financial Peace University	Vista	July 2 - August 27, 6:30pm
Leading With Questions	Vista	July 23, 7pm

New classes and more info can be found online at northcoastchurch.com/classes