



Pleasing unto God

The words “pleasing” and “acceptable” have the same Greek word. In other words, what is pleasing unto God is acceptable unto Him. We cannot separate believing on Jesus and pleasing God. Those who do not believe on Jesus are not pleasing to God and have rejected Jesus. It’s impossible to please Him without faith.

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

The number one way we should seek to be pleasing to God is spiritual (Vertical). This happens when we believe on Jesus and enter relationship with Him **through Faith (Hebrews 11:6)**. Our faith should always be in the Lord. Once we have been justified by putting faith in the Lord, there are **things** we can do to that are pleasing to the Lord.

Contrary to what some have been teaching after receiving the revelation of Grace, there are **things or actions** that we can do that are pleasing unto God. Faith is not the only thing that pleases God, PERIOD! There are many scriptures that reveal that there are other things that do please God. We are loved by God similar to the way parents love their children, but that does not mean that the kids are always pleasing in their behavior.

- o God loves us but does not always love or approve everything we do. Paul continually instructed believers against living ungodly even after they were already pleasing to God through their faith in Him. Living ungodly is detrimental to us and cannot be pleasing to God to see us hurting. God loves us and wants us to experience victory He has for us but that does not come through living contrary to His Word.
- o God has blessed and still blesses and delights in us, but He does not bless nor delight in anything or everything we do that is against His will.

- o God is for us (Romans 8:31) but is not for everything we do. God died for all our sin but does not delight in it. Let them that call on the name of the Lord depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19).
- o God loves us but does not love everything we do. Paul continually instructed believers against living ungodly. It's detrimental to us. God loves us and wants us to experience victory He has for us but that does not come through living contrary to His Word.

Pleasing to God has two aspects:

Pleasing God can be summarized in two:

- o Vertical pleasing
- o Horizontal pleasing.

Spiritual is a DONE deal while in the physical or horizontal is not a DONE deal, but on going. We please Him spiritually, but we do not always please Him physically or soulishly. We need to manifest spiritual pleasing in the natural.

- a) Relationship (spiritual realm aspect). This is strictly through faith in the Lord Jesus (Hebrews 11:6). This is also vertical pleasing.
- b) Behavior (physical realm aspect). This is strictly through our actions and behavior. This is also horizontal.
 - i) Philippians 2:13-16 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be **blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;** Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.
 - We have a responsibility as believers to live a godly life and blameless in this present evil world. This is how we let our light shine. Light does not speak. It just shines—or acts.

- A. Hebrew 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- a) Believing or putting faith in Jesus = pleasing God. Those who do not please God if we have rejected Jesus. It is impossible to please Him without faith.
 - b) Again, it is our faith that pleases God. God is already pleased with us based on our faith in Jesus and His finished work.
 - c) In our Spirit man, we are pleasing to God. This pleasing is not by our good works but by faith.
 - d) This is not to say that our actions aren't pleasing to God. They are.
- B. Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
- a) Jesus was already well pleasing to God the Father before He did anything because of His position as Son. This does not mean that He could do whatever and God would be pleased. God forbid! He did **things behavior wise** that were pleasing to God (John 8:29) even as a son who was already from a relationship standpoint pleasing unto God.
- C. John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.
- a) The Lord Jesus did things that were pleasing to the Lord.
 - b) Although God is not judging our sin nor holding it against us, He is not well pleased with it. We can't live anyhow and believe that God is well pleased with our ungodly lifestyle because He is pleased with us by faith.
 - c) Although God is pleased with us based on our spiritual position, He does not approve of the ungodly lifestyle we may engage in. It is not acceptable to Him.
 - d) We should aspire to be pleasing to the Lord in every good work—our actions.

D. The following scriptures give detail of what is pleasing and acceptable unto God. Something acceptable is something pleasing unto God.

a) Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord **unto all pleasing**, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

i) There would not be all pleasing if it is only faith that pleases God. Our actions do please God, but it is mostly the actions of those who are in faith and relationship with God.

b) Colossians 3:20 Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is **well pleasing unto the Lord**.

i) Children obeying their parents is pleasing and acceptable to the Lord, therefore, disobedience would be displeasing and unacceptable to the Lord.

c) Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, **acceptable unto God**, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and **acceptable**, and perfect, will of God.

i) This passage of scripture makes it clear that presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice *is* in a holy way is acceptable to the Lord. Not presenting our bodies in a godly fashion or not living in a godly manner is unacceptable to the Lord.

ii) God wants us to be transformed through the renewing of our mind so that we may know and manifest what is the good, acceptable (pleasing), and perfect will of God.

d) Romans 14:17-18 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ *is acceptable to God*, and approved of men.

i) Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost are acceptable and pleasing to the Lord. If we fashion and live our lives around these key things, it is pleasing unto the Lord. The opposite is true as well.

- e) 1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
- i) There are certain things we can do that are pleasing in His sight but also there are certain things that we do that aren't well-pleasing in His sight.
- f) Hebrews 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is **wellpleasing in his sight**, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be glory* for ever and ever. Amen.
- i) God is working in us to do those things that are pleasing in His sight. How? Through Jesus Christ.
 - ii) Philippians 2:13 says, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.
 - God wants us to live a life that is godly and pleasing unto Him. He, therefore, is working in us both to will and to do according to His good pleasure.
- g) Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: **for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.**
- i) God is well pleased when we do good and we forget not to communicate. This calls those good things or deeds sacrifices with which God is well pleased.
- h) Philippians 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a **sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.**
- i) The context of this was referring to giving. Paul was commending the Philippians for their giving.
 - ii) Giving specifically in support of the work of the kingdom is well-pleasing and acceptable to God. Not giving will not well-pleasing to God. There is no condemnation, but it is still not pleasing to God.

- i) Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, **be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD**, my strength, and my redeemer.
 - i) David was praying a prayer where His meditations and things he was thinking upon would be pleasing and acceptable to God. He was, in other words, asking God for help.

- j) Ephesians 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
 - i) We are to prove or manifest that which is acceptable and pleasing unto the Lord. Walking in as children of the light in all goodness and righteousness is acceptable unto the Lord.

- k) 1 Timothy 2:1-3 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* **good and acceptable** in the sight of God our Saviour;
 - i) Supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks for those in authority so that we may lead a peaceable life in godliness and honesty is good and acceptable unto God.

- l) 1 Timothy 5:4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.
 - i) Paul was establishing how widows are to be taken care of. If they have children or nephews, these should take care of the widow, not the church. This act is good and acceptable unto the Lord.

- m) 1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, **acceptable to God by Jesus Christ**.
 - i) In the Old Covenant, the children of Israel and the priests offered physical sacrifices which were well-pleasing and acceptable unto God. In the same way,

we under the New Covenant ought to offer sacrifices—spiritual ones, and this is also acceptable unto God by Jesus Christ.

- ii) Such sacrifices in the New Covenant would include; Thanksgiving (Psalm 107:22; Psalm 116:17; Hebrews 13:15-16), Praise, giving unto the Lord (Philippians 4:18).
- n) 1 Peter 2:20 For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God.
 - i) When we suffer (persecution) for doing that which is right and take it patiently is acceptable and well-pleasing to God.