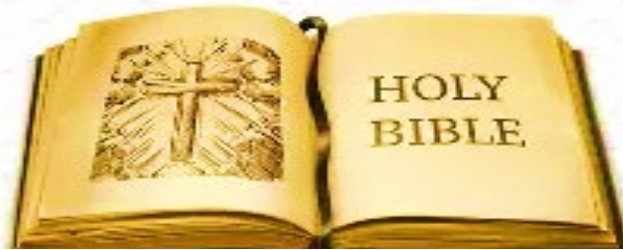


**“But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out].”**  
**Heb.11:6 (AMPC)**

**“For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists ...”<sup>1</sup>** In previous weeks we have in a scant and inadequate manner examined the relationship of human beings with the Almighty God. If any conclusion were to be drawn, it would be that human beings do not truly and really know God. **This is the sad truth that majorly has been responsible for human beings living for the most part, outside of the knowledge and the will of God. But this was a deliberate and intentional action and decision on the part of human beings. And this situation is what has resulted in the consequent depravity, darkness, and all the vices that have attended the lives of human beings. The Scripture says that, “Because when they knew and recognized Him as God, they did not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. But instead they became futile and godless in their thinking [with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations] and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools [professing to be smart, they made simpletons of themselves]. And so, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth the knowing, God gave them over to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome, until they were filled (permeated and saturated) with every kind of unrighteousness, iniquity, grasping and covetous greed, and malice. [They were] full of envy and jealousy, murder, strife, deceit and treachery, ill will and cruel ways. [They were] secret backbiters and gossipers, slanderers, hateful to and hating God, full of insolence, arrogance, [and] boasting; inventors of new forms of evil, disobedient and undutiful to parents. [They were] without [They were] conscienceless and faithless, heartless and loveless [and] merciless.”<sup>2</sup>** Human beings knew and recognized God, but deliberately and intentionally chose to ignore and hate Him. From the same Scripture passage, human beings now decided to make their own gods, **“And by them the glory and majesty and excellence of the immortal God were exchanged for and represented by images, resembling mortal man and birds and beasts and reptiles.”<sup>3</sup>** Human beings decided to choose mortal man, birds, beasts and reptiles as their gods in the place of the Immortal, Supreme, Sovereign, Omnipotent, and Eternal Almighty God. **This is what became of human beings now fitted with ‘a base and condemned minds’. No wonder the world is where it is today!**

However, we were reminded last week that **the requirement to know God is legitimate and proper, and that to do otherwise is at the risk of severe and eternal punishment.<sup>4</sup>** This is because God is the Creator of the universe, which includes human beings. He is also the One who sustains the universe, again, including the human beings who dwell in it.<sup>5</sup> The creator of anything has absolute right over what he has created. Human beings talk about copyright; and other ownership rights, and like to be held in high esteem by others for their work. **Why should the Creator of the whole universe and all its contents not deserve continuous worship, loyalty, praise and thanksgivings,<sup>6</sup>** a thing that should be crystal clear to everyone? It can only be because the majority of people still operate with ‘a base and condemned mind,’ who are **‘futile and godless in their thinking [with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations]’**! Such a situation is clearly abnormal. So, it is reasonable to say that for a change to come in the relationship of human beings with God, there **MUST BE** a serious surgery to remove this ‘base and condemned mind,’ whose every inclination and habitual leaning is evil.<sup>7</sup> This surgery is done by the Almighty God through godly faith, and this is where our key passage for this week gives a snippet into this requirement. The Key verse says, **“But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out].”<sup>8</sup>** This is the Key – Faith – which gives us the grace for Salvation, Redemption, and Cleansing in the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Holy and ONLY Acceptable Sacrifice and Atonement for Sin.<sup>9</sup> This is what the Scripture says, **[All] are justified and made upright and in right standing with God, freely and gratuitously by His grace (His unmerited favor and mercy), through the redemption which is [provided] in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward [before the eyes of all] as a mercy seat and propitiation by His blood [the cleansing and life-giving sacrifice of atonement and reconciliation, to be received] through faith. This was to show God’s**



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***righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over and ignored former sins without punishment.”<sup>10</sup>***

All are justified and made upright and in right standing with God by **‘the cleansing and life-giving sacrifice of atonement and reconciliation’**, provided by the blood of Jesus Christ; but this has to be received by faith. It is free, gratuitous, and by His grace, but there is a condition which Human beings have to satisfy, - **RECEIVE IT BY FAITH**. This is what makes it possible for anyone to be Pleasing, Satisfactory and Be Able To Come Near To God. But this is where many in the world have challenges or fail in their attempt at a relationship with the Almighty God. They Are To Receive Free Of Charge. The surgery necessary for a return to God and to begin to know God is done by God Himself, and **NO ONE CAN PAY FOR IT**. Mere and fallen human beings must cast away their tendency to want to take credit for things. **Yes, there is nothing human beings can do that will make this surgery possible. It is the Act of Grace – the Unmerited Favour and Mercy of God.** Pride, arrogance, and every sense of ‘me’ and ‘self’ must be completely relinquished, before human beings can begin to access this grace. **Human beings MUST EMPTY themselves of anything that they can lay claims to as coming from them, in order to access the work of God.** This is about utter and total humility and surrender, which **MUST BE** voluntary, and based on the understanding that human beings are made, did not make themselves and therefore own nothing!<sup>11</sup> Apostle Paul asked the very important question: **what have you that you have not received? if you have received everything, then where is the ground for boasting?**<sup>12</sup> All human beings that will come to God and receive this surgery must honestly ask and answer this question. **They MUST believe the answer which is that they DO NOT OWN ANYTHING, INCLUDING THEIR VERY LIFE.** It is the refusal of this honest assessment that is stopping many from having this surgery which will enable them to begin to come near to the Almighty God done in their lives. This is how to receive the grace for Salvation.

**Dear reader, have you made this honest evaluation of yourself and accepted your emptiness so that you can be filled with what is real that will make you satisfactory to God?** Time is not in your hand. Every moment that you live on this earth is a gift, which must be used wisely. Your yesterday is past, and cannot be recovered; your today is passing, and you do not have the assurance or ability to make a claim about your tomorrow. **So do not delay, or remain stubborn and disobedient. Humble yourself and receive the grace that gives Salvation now.** It is free, gratuitous, and Transformatory.<sup>13</sup>

***Have A God Centred And Focussed 2026.***

**Further & Daily Readings: Hebrews 11:1-16; Romans 1:17-32.** 1.Heb. 11:6; 2. Rom.1:21-22, 28-32; 3. Rom.1:23; 4. Heb.10:29-30; Rev.21:8; 5. Psalm 104:27-31; Col.1:16-17; 6. Rev.4:11; 7. Gen.6:5; 8. Heb. 11:6; 9. Acts 4:12; 1Jn.2:2; 10. Rom.3:24-25; 11. Psalm 100:3; 12. 1Cor. 4:7; 13. 2Cor.3:18; Titus 2:11-14.