

Bible Study: Pleasing God

Theme Scripture: Hebrews 11:5–6 (NIV)

“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

Introduction

The desire to please God runs throughout Scripture. From Enoch’s walk with God to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles, the Bible shows us what truly brings joy to the heart of the Lord. This study explores four major truths about pleasing God and how we can walk them out in everyday life.

Historical and Biblical Background on Enoch

Before diving into what it means to please God, it helps to look at the man Hebrews highlights as an example: Enoch.

1. Enoch Lived During the Pre-Flood World

Enoch lived in the **antediluvian period**, the era between Adam and Noah. Humanity was multiplying, but Scripture hints that spiritual and moral decay was rising as well (Genesis 6:1–6). In a darkening world, Enoch stood out as a man who chose intimacy with God over drifting with culture.

2. Enoch “Walked with God”

Genesis 5:22, 24 describes him with a unique phrase:

“Enoch walked faithfully with God.”

The Hebrew word *halak* conveys steady companionship, daily closeness, and intentional relationship. Enoch didn’t simply acknowledge God; he journeyed with Him.

3. Enoch Lived 365 Years

Compared to the 800–900-year lifespans around him, Enoch’s 365 years seem brief. Some scholars see symbolic meaning in the number 365 (reflecting a full solar year), but either way, Scripture paints his life as spiritually complete.

4. Enoch Did Not Experience Death

Genesis 5:24 says:

“...then he was no more, because God took him.”

Enoch's departure was supernatural and unique. He is one of only two people in the Bible who did not experience death (Elijah being the other). This was God's personal affirmation of his faithful life.

5. Enoch in Jewish Tradition

Ancient Jewish writings like *1 Enoch* (not Scripture but historically significant) depict Enoch as a prophetic voice against wickedness. Jude 14–15 reflects this tradition by quoting Enoch as one who warned his generation.

6. Enoch as a Model of Pleasing God

Hebrews 11:5 makes it clear:

“...he was commended as one who pleased God.”

Enoch shows that pleasing God is not about culture, status, or achievement. It is about walking closely with God day by day.

1. Pleasing God Begins with Faith

Key Scripture: *Hebrews 11:6*

“Without faith it is impossible to please God...”

Teaching

Faith is our foundation. It isn't just believing God exists; it's trusting His character and leaning your life into His leadership.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Hebrews 11:1 (NIV):** “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”
- **Romans 10:17 (NIV):** “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message...”

Application Questions

- What does trusting God look like right now in your life?
- Where might God be calling you to step out in faith?

2. Pleasing God Means Walking in Obedience

Key Scripture: *John 14:15 (NIV)*

“If you love Me, keep My commands.”

Teaching

Obedience flows from relationship, not rule-keeping. It’s faith expressed through action.

Supporting Scriptures

- **1 Samuel 15:22 (NIV):** “To obey is better than sacrifice...”
- **Psalm 119:35 (NIV):** “Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.”

Illustration

A child crossing a busy street may not understand all the dangers, but holding a parent’s hand shows trust. Obedience works that way with God.

Application Questions

- Is God calling you to obey Him in an area that feels challenging?
- How does obedience deepen your walk with God?

3. Pleasing God Means Living with Pure Motives

Key Scripture: *1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NIV)*

“We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.”

God looks at the heart behind the action. Pure motives come from humility, sincerity, and a desire to honor Him.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Psalm 51:6 (NIV):** “You desire truth in the inner parts...”
- **Matthew 6:1 (NIV):** “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them.”

Illustration

A good fragrance doesn’t need to advertise itself. It fills the room simply because of what it is. A pure heart has the same quiet influence.

Application Questions

- Why do you serve, worship, or give?
- Where might God be refining your motives?

4. Pleasing God Happens When We Love Others Well

Key Scripture: *John 13:34 (NIV)*

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you...”

Teaching

Loving others is one of the clearest ways we reflect God’s nature. God is pleased when His love shows up through us.

Supporting Scriptures

- **1 John 4:20 (NIV):** “Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar.”
- **Hebrews 13:16 (NIV):** “Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Illustration

A mirror doesn’t create light; it reflects it. Our love reflects God’s heart to the world.

Application Questions

- Who is God calling you to love more intentionally?
- What simple acts of kindness can you offer this week?

Conclusion

Pleasing God is perfection of heart and . Like Enoch, we are invited to walk closely with God every day. As we trust Him, obey Him, purify our motives, and love others well, we live a life that brings joy to His heart.