

## February 21

**Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup>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.

From an early age, Steve was a person who loved working with his hands. He would take just about anything he could find apart to see if he could make it better. Surprisingly, he managed to do so quite often. Throughout school, he immersed himself in science, robotics, construction, etc. He gradually gained the wisdom and skill to design and construct his own ideas. During college, Steve decided he was going to construct a perpetual motion machine. The fact that it had never been done before only increased his determination. His professors applauded his enthusiasm, but each one told Steve the task was impossible to achieve. To Steve, the word “impossible” was a challenge he took personally. He immersed himself in his work to the point that his grades suffered. His relationships began to suffer as he had no time for other people. Time and time again, his professors and other students showed him the proof that it was impossible to build such a machine. Steve was wasting his time, his energy, and his knowledge.

I did a little reading on the subject and found that building a perpetual motion machine is impossible because of the loss of energy. A true perpetual motion machine would require that no energy would ever be lost. To accomplish this, the machine would have no touching parts, make no sound, and operate in a vacuum. Therefore, it is very accurate to say that such an endeavor is impossible. In today's verse, Paul tells us that to please God without faith is impossible. However, just as that proclamation did not stop Steve or countless others, Paul's words have not deterred many from trying to please God without faith. At one time, I wanted to serve God, but I wanted to remain in my comfort zone. Doing so meant that I was not comfortable taking a step of faith. I wanted to remain in control of the situation. I was willing to volunteer as long the task fell within my capabilities and understanding. It seemed I was doing fine without faith. However, I noticed others who were more excited about serving, who were not deterred by challenges, who spoke of a relationship with Jesus I did not have. They kept taking steps of faith that propelled them into situations where they were relying solely on God. They had no doubt God exists. They had no doubts that if He called them to do something, then He would reward them and equip them. I realized I was not even pleasing myself much less God. Jesus is calling each of us into a life of faith where we trust Him with our next step and with the outcome. That first step will lead to another and another. We can all it the Perpetual Faith Machine.