

Christian-ish— When God Doesn't Do It

True faith is relational, not transactional—it's about knowing and loving God for who He is, not just for what He does.

Transactional faith is a distorted belief that turns our relationship with God into a contract—believing that if we do our part, God is obligated to do His.

- **Martha: Lord, if You'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. (John 11:21)**
- **Older brother: I did everything right. Where's *my* party? (Luke 15:29-30)**
- **Rich young ruler: I kept the rules. Why isn't that enough? (Matthew 19:16-22)**

**A contract is transactional, temporary, and enforceable by law.
A covenant is relational, eternal, and sustained by love.**

... if we are faithless, [God] remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself. 2 Timothy 2:13 NIV

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you ... ³Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. ... ⁶On my bed I remember you ... ⁷... I sing in the shadow of your wings. ⁸I cling to you; your right hand upholds me. Psalm 63:1, 3, 6-8 NIV

- **Do I follow God because of what He does for me or because of who He is?**
- **Do I still trust God when He doesn't answer my prayer the way I want, or do I feel betrayed?**

- **Do I serve God because I love Him or because I'm hoping for something in return?**

If you're doing God's will just to get God's stuff, you're missing God's heart.

TALK IT OVER

Read **Matthew 6:33**. What are some ways you can practically seek God's kingdom first?

Talk about a time when you felt like God let you down. How did you process your disappointments?

What parts of your faith are transactional, rather than relational? What would it look like to let go of expectations and focus on God's heart?

Find a practical way to seek God first every day this week. Notice how your relationship with God grows as a result.