

What Does It Take To Please God? 1 Thessalonians 4:1

Trying to please someone... What's it like, and why would you do it?

How many people talk about trying to please God; maybe they "rededicate" themselves, make promises or vows, but really, what does it mean to "please God"? What do you think would impress Him?

Do you think God would be impressed by our...

- _____? No. *"These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."* (Matt. 23:23c) Also cf. Luke 6:46; John 14:15.
- _____? No. *"When you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"* (Luke 17:10)

Both of these are expected of us as God's children, as part of His family. So what pleases God? Consider three things that Scripture speaks of as "pleasing God":

1. _____ **Pleases God** - *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* (Heb. 11:6) Is faith important? Consider:

- _____ who believed the Lord could and would heal his son... to the point that Jesus didn't even _____. *"When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!'"* (Matt. 8:10)
- The _____ who sought and believed that Jesus could heal her daughter - *"Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, great is your faith!'"* (Matt. 15:28a)

Faith matters a great deal to God, and yet it is something that most Christians struggle with. _____ Yes, but we wouldn't please God. *"So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."* (Romans 8:8) Are you living by faith? What have you done that you could not do in your own strength... by your own means?

What has God _____? *"For we speak as messengers who have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He is the one who examines the motives of our hearts."* (1 Thess. 2:4 NLT)

2. _____ **Pleases God** - Speaks of our time, the gifts and talents God gave us, and our "stuff" (Prov. 3:9). Consider:

- _____ - Jesus said, "*Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.*" (Mark 12:43-44)
- _____ said he would not offer to God _____
_____ (2 Sam. 24:24).

3. _____ **Pleases God** - _____ is as pleasing to God as it is to those we are close to. Why do you think God recorded in Luke 7:37-38 and John 12:1-3 the accounts of two women who wept over Christ and anointed Him? It was more than a simple object lesson; both were touching scenes of great love and devotion.

It is love and devotion that gives us the _____ of faith, and the _____ to give. It is interesting, but when one truly walks with the Lord, they probably do these things; they please God _____
_____.

Conclusion and Application: Most of us are well acquainted with the _____
_____; it's nice to know that you and I can please our Lord... that we can _____.

John 3:16; Rom. 5:8, and more speak of God's _____ for us. Do you love Him? In John 8:9, Jesus speaks of His _____:
"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." So, you call yourself a "Christian", a follower of Christ... Do you desire to walk with your Lord, do you desire to please Him?