

**How Does God Grow  
Our Faith?  
Part Two  
Hebrews 11:6**

## Observations

- ▶ In our previous lesson, we explored the idea that God gets pleasure out of our faith in Him, and the more faith we show (*not just “little faith”*), the more He is pleased with us
- ▶ We explored two methods that God uses to grow a faith in us that pleases Him

**#1) Allowing us to go through difficulties**

**Ex. the Israelite nation,  
*The “refinement of His people  
in the furnace of affliction”*  
Isaiah 48:10; Romans 5:3**

***Custom Made Difficulties  
(Jonah’s whale, Paul’s thorn;  
God corrected two extreme  
behaviors of His children)***

## Observations

- **#2 Through Commands which demand following His instructions (complicit obedience) thus revealing our love and allegiance**

***“Doing what He says like He says”***

***(Gathering Manna, Exodus 16:4-20; Baptism, Acts 8:38; the answer of a good conscience toward God, 1Peter 3:21)***

***“As newborn babes, desire the sincere (unadulterated) milk of the word that ye may grow thereby:” 2 Peter 2:2***

# #3 God Grows Faith Through Delays

What Would Happen To Our Faith:

- If our every prayer request was immediately answered?
- If our every problem were instantly solved?

**Our Faith Would Not Need to Grow!**

- The fact is, that waiting is a part of our lives that counters our human nature (Ex. We hate to wait while driving, in check-out lines, in drive-throughs; for appointments.)
- Point: However, there are some lessons in “*Delays*,” that God knows will grow our faith
- God is always working behind the scenes while we wait (we mistake delays for stagnation)

(He is working on our hearts, or preparing the hearts of others for us; God’s timing is never wrong; Peter needed a C.E. COURSE on Race, Acts 10:34, Isaiah 55:8-9)

What Should  
Have Taken 3  
Weeks Took  
40 YEARS!

God had to  
work on their  
Hearts!

## 2. Israel's Exodus from Egypt and Entry into Canaan





# God Tells Us Why the Delay in Travelling to the Promised Land

*“Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way into the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commandments.” Deuteronomy 8:2*

- So by waiting (delays), God and I get to see what is in my heart. Is my life about me, or is it about glorifying (displaying) God?

# God Finds Out About Our Heart's Condition With Delays in Our Lives

- When Will I Find the Right Job?
  - When Will I Find the Right Mate?
  - When Will My Illness Get Better?
  - When Will I have a Baby?
- Is It About Me Or God?

“...God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him”

Isaiah 64:4

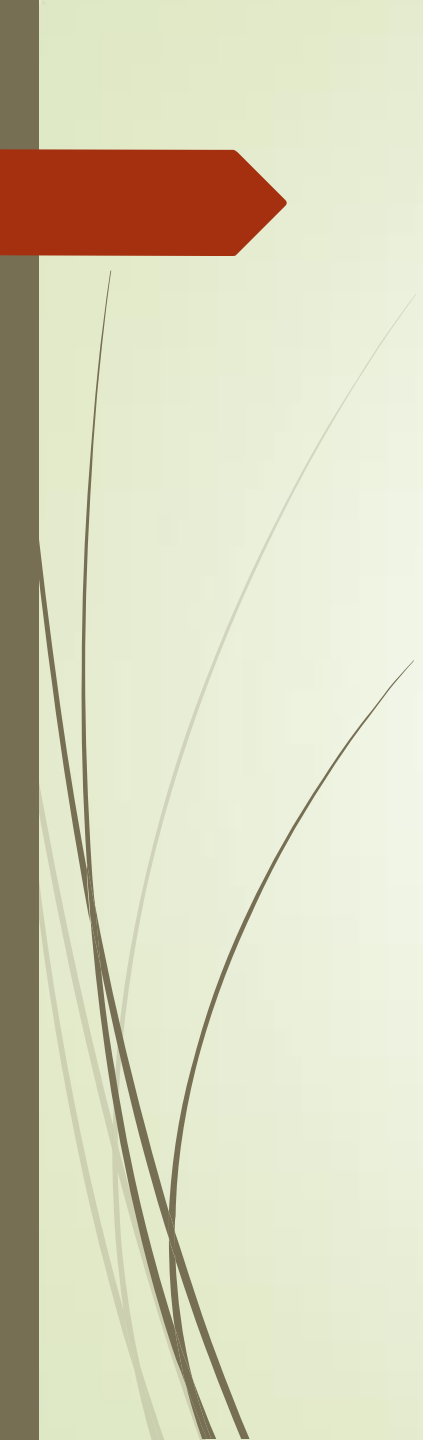
## #4 God Grows Our Faith By Testing It With Dollars!

- God uses our material possessions as a test of our faith and a growth index of our character

*“So, if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth (small things), who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, (honest in small jobs), who will give you property of your own (put you in charge)?” Luke 16:11-12*

- God uses *“the stewardship of our material possessions,”* as a test of our character and a test of our growth in faith
- Did you know that God can test our growth when we *“choose”* to get into debt?
- Will we take what we owe Him to help erase our financial challenges (cars, houses, credit cards, material things)?




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- Jesus says that there is a direct relationship between how I handle my money and the spiritual depth of my life
  - Jesus says that if I'm not faithful with my material wealth, He will not trust me with spiritual riches (the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, goodness, Galatians 5:22) My "*Financial Selfishness*" can block my blessings
  - When I'm willing and able to give my money to the Lord, knowing that I could have used it on other things, that's a test of my growth in Christian Character
  - Every time I give to God, it breaks the grip of materialism in my life

# Observations

- In 1 Chronicles 29, the Bible records how David and the children of Israel raised money to build the temple of God
- When people say that “*God doesn’t need a building,*” they haven’t read 1 Chronicles 29. Here, God told them to raise the money to build the temple of God, and they did it “*sacrificially.*”  
*Look at verses 14-17:*

*“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand....Our days on earth are like a shadow without hope. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.”*



***“All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.”***


- **David says that giving financially tests and grows our love and the integrity of our hearts**
- **I want you to evaluate how much faith your giving reveals:**

**If God looked at your financial gifts to him, in comparison to what you get from Him, would God say that you really trust Him? Or are you afraid to obey His word in this area of your life?**



## 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

*“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth (decided) in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.”*





## Also, Malachi Says That Our Giving Tests God!

*“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe (a whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse (Temple Treasury) that there may be food in my house. Test Me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”*

*Malachi 3:8-10 NIV*

# Observations

- So, my financial giving not only tests me, but it actually tests God and His Word
- God basically says, I'll play a game with you:  
You give to me, and I'll give to you; and let's see who wins
- Christians, I dare you to put *THE ULIMATE GIVER* to the test!
- John 3:16 reminds us that His giving to us is not just financial

# Observations

- **If I want my faith to grow, and admittedly God is pleased with growing faith:**

**I have to rejoice continually even during difficulties**

**I have to obey immediately, even the specific commands**

**I must be willing to wait on God's timing**

**I must give generously (not angrily or bitterly), trusting that my compliance will bless me and those that I love**



# The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**                      **Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**                      **Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**                      **Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**                      **Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**                      **Acts 8:38**

