

## Five Indispensable Things

**Intro:** One of the things I've learned in preaching the gospel overseas is what I can live without. I've learned that I can live without air conditioning, both cooling and heat. I have learned that I can live without eating many of my favorite foods. I have learned that I can live without watching TV. You get the idea. Do you know what you can live without?

But have you considered the opposite question: What can I not live without? That seems pretty obvious from a physical standpoint (water, food, air, etc.); but what about from a spiritual standpoint? What things would you consider indispensable? What things would you say you absolutely must have?

Let's consider some things the Scriptures tell us are indispensable.

### **Without faith it is impossible to please God.**

*And 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 seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)*

***Faith is indispensable in pleasing God; but what kind of faith is he speaking about?***

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)*

There is a faith that comes from seeing, from experiencing things. Jesus acknowledged that people could "believe" because of sight and experience. But the Hebrew writer is speaking about faith in another sense and at another level. It is belief that embraces what is not seen, what is not experienced (but instead what is hoped for). He illustrates this faith lived out in the characters of the OT who embraced the unseen and hoped in what they had not yet experienced. How is it possible to do this? The answer is that we develop a relationship of trust toward God based on evidence He has given us that we are able to accept as true what we cannot see or what we do not presently experience.

The Hebrew writer tells us that this faith is "indispensable" to our lives! We cannot live without it!

### **Without works faith is dead.**

James wrote to people who understood the importance of faith; but they had to understand that pleasing God meant more than just affirming the truth that God exists or expressing agreement with what God had said.

*For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. (James 2:26)*

***Just as faith is indispensable to pleasing God, so works is indispensable to justifying faith. Simply put, if faith could be said to exist at all, it could only be described as "vain" or "dead" if not accompanied by the deeds of faith.***

And so James urges his readers to do more than simply “believe” in the truth that God exists. He said the devils do that!

He urges his readers to do more than wish the best for others. Such faith is useless. Instead real faith would seek to offer help to those who need us.

***So then, “works”(obedient actions) are indispensable to justifying faith.***

**Without love our works are nothing.**

*Paul wrote to believers who knew the importance of doing good things; but they too needed to understand that there are some things that are indispensable.*

*If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-2)*

***If faith is indispensable to pleasing God, and works are indispensable to showing faith, then love is indispensable to good works.***

The Corinthians had been endowed with gifts of the Spirit. At baptism they had received these gifts; but were using them without love for one another. Instead there were feelings of jealousy, competition and superiority. It prompted Paul to show the nature of the love that motivates our works. *Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)*

It may appear from these verses that life and salvation is simply a matter of human effort—faith, works, love. But the truth is none of these things can exist with the results we hope for outside a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Without a relationship with Christ we can do nothing.**

*I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)*

***If faith is indispensable to pleasing God, and works are indispensable to faith, and if love is indispensable to works, then a relationship with Jesus is indispensable to all of them.***

**He provides the motivation for our love.**

**He provides the instruction for our works.**

**He provides the basis for our faith.**

***Only when we maintain an abiding relationship with Him, can we have these other things essential for our spiritual life. And to that we can add one other indispensable thing.***

**Without Jesus’ blood we cannot have a relationship with Him.**

*And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)*

***The Hebrew writer by looking at the pattern of sacrifice in the OT necessarily inferred this important truth. The shedding of blood is indispensable to receiving the forgiveness of God. It is something we cannot live without! However, as he advanced the argument he concluded that the shedding of animal blood was not adequate to remove sins.***

*For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*

*(Hebrews 10:4)*

***That led him to the inescapable conclusion of this book. The blood of Christ is indispensable to remission of sins.***

*By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10:10)*

***Indeed “my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus’ name”.***

***But it is consequently indispensable to every other thing.***

**Without Jesus’ blood, there can be no relationship with Christ.**

**Without Jesus’ blood, there can be no fruit to bear.**

**Without Jesus’ blood, there can be no love to show.**

**Without Jesus’ blood, there can be no works to do.**

**Without Jesus blood, there can be no faith to please God and receive His rewards.**

**Conclusion: Other things could be mentioned that are indispensable, but they simply grow out of these indispensable things. Every Sunday as we gather we are being reminded of this important truth—without Him we are nothing, we can be nothing, we can do nothing. It is because of what He has done that we can be and do with will result in our eternal salvation.**

*For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. (Galatians 5:5-6)*