

ARE WE PRETENDING?

Hebrews 11:6 -- "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."

INTRODUCTION

Every Saturday morning when my sisters and I were young we listened to a radio program called "Let's Pretend." They had great stories! The sponsor was the manufacturer of Cream of Wheat, and the commercial was always the "Cream of Wheat Song." (Incidentally, at our faculty retreat at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference last year, we had Cream of Wheat for breakfast one morning, so I recruited Tom Taylor and we stood up and sang the "Cream of Wheat Song" for the benefit of our fellow faculty members and a group of about sixty college students who were there for a Navigators Training Conference!)

The stories on "Let's Pretend" were "let's pretend" stories. But you know something -- it's possible to be a "let's pretend" Christian and to live a "let's pretend" Christianity. It's possible to profess the truths of Christianity, but at the same time withhold full belief in them or complete commitment to them.

In Hebrews 11:6 we read, "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."

This scripture tells us that it is impossible to please God without faith, and that real faith in God is characterized by two content items: (a) belief that God is objectively real, and (b) belief that God blesses those who earnestly seek Him.

Faith in God is not a belief in just any god; it is belief in the God of the Bible. This means belief in the triune divine Being who is the Creator, Sustainer, Ruler, Redeemer, and Judge of the world, who is alive and