

# sermon study guide

*Sermon Summary (see next page for discussion questions)*

## Vision Weekend: Faith Goals

October 16/17, 2021

Dr Henry Schorr

Once a year Pastor Henry speaks about what God has done in our church, and our vision of where we believe He is leading us. In Hebrews Chapter 11, Paul focuses on faith, distinguishing between “true faith” and “misguided/false faith”. He explains that without “faith” it is impossible to please God because firstly, anyone who comes to God must believe that He exists, and secondly, God rewards those who earnestly seek Him. God is looking for people who want to know Him completely, i.e. include Him in our daily life, have Him as our best friend and trust Him with our lives, so He can strengthen, bless and accomplish His will through us through the means of various assignments.

How do we exercise a God-pleasing faith for His glory, our spiritual growth, and the redemption of a world that desperately needs Jesus? Nearly fourteen years ago we sensed that God was calling us to seek His direction for the future of our church. Over a period of 18 months, Church leaders and staff sought God’s will. They believed that God wanted us (as individuals and as a church) to focus on five Biblical pursuits: These are our Faith Goals.

1. **Pursue God** – establishing a God-pleasing faith goal by committing to learning about Him through His Word and prayer. As we read Scripture, we ask God two vital questions: What are you saying to me? What do you want me to do about it?
2. **Pursue Relationships** – step out in faith through acts of caring, sharing, inviting people to join you or your ministry; through these relationships, one or more people will embrace Christ as their Lord and Savior.
3. **Pursue His Mission** – our mission as a church is not about constructing buildings; it’s about introducing people to Jesus. God uses buildings to make disciples within them. As a Church we have witnessed this in the lives of thousands of people over the history of our church.
4. **Pursue Generosity** – when Christ returns we want Him to find us committed to being generous with the gifts He gave us: time, finances, abilities and spiritual gifts. Let’s use these to bring others to Him.
5. **Pursue Simplicity** – we often think simplicity is about figuring out a way to do less. However, simplicity is the will to do one thing which will bring clarity to what is most important in our lives, and pursuing it with laser focus. Many people do innumerable things. Jesus said in Matthew 6: “You cannot serve two masters or two gods.” If you try to do that, your life will be chaotic and you will soon be depleted emotionally and physically.

Each of us is unique: we have been blessed with a plethora of talents, spiritual gifts, abilities and experiences and we are called to use them both individually as well as collectively as a church, so we may fulfil God’s redemptive purposes in the world and be ready for Jesus when He returns! Let us pray about the Faith Goals God is calling us to as individuals and communities and how they connect with the Five Pursuits above. May we put into practice the vision God has given our church!

You can pick up Faith Goal Commitment cards (with helpful suggestions) from the church, submit online (<http://www.cschurch.ca/faith>) or download and print them: keep a copy for yourself, and give one to the church, anonymously.

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Discussion Questions

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### IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Have you ever gone on a road trip without knowing your destination? Do you find the idea of a trip without a destination exciting or frightening? Why?
2. Tell of a time when you have taken a step of faith during this pandemic that has grown your faith. Conversely, has your faith diminished in this time? Tell us why it may have happened.

### UP - PURSUE GOD

**Read Hebrews 11:6; 2 Chronicles 16:9a; Psalm 42:1-2**

3. In what or in whom we place our faith and trust is of utmost importance. What must we do to have a faith that pleases God? What does it mean to earnestly seek him?  
**Read Luke 6:38; Refer to Hebrews 11**
4. God challenges us to a life of generosity and faith. Discuss some ways God rewards those who follow Him in generosity and faith.

### OUT - PURSUE MISSION

Pastor Henry spoke on the Five Pursuits of Centre Street Church

- Pursuing God
  - Pursuing relationships
  - Pursuing His mission
  - Pursuing generosity
  - Pursuing simplicity
5. C.S. Lewis observed that God offers us a life that far exceeds anything this world has to offer if we earnestly seek Him, but far too many of us are too easily pleased with the lesser things of life. What might be a 'lesser' thing that gets in the way of your pursuing God fully? Which of the five 'pursuits' help restore focus on that which is most important? What would this look like in day-to-day living?
  6. How might a life of simplicity aid in the other four 'pursuits': God, Relationships, Mission and Generosity?

### THE WORD (NIV)

#### 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.

#### 2 Chronicles 16:9a

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

#### Psalm 42:1-2

1 As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, my God.

2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When can I go and meet with God?

#### Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

#### **For Personal Reflection/Prayer:**

***Prayerfully look at the Pursuit card that you picked up at church (or find it at [www.cschurch.ca/faith](http://www.cschurch.ca/faith)) and with God's leading fill it out.***