

Message Summary

Big Idea: True faith is knowing and loving God for who God is, not for what God does. True faith in God is not transactional, it is relational.

Transactional faith is a distorted belief that turns our relationship with God into a contract—believing that if we do our part, God is obligated to do God’s part. But when we have a transactional faith, we miss God’s heart.

How to Identify Transactional Faith

1. Do I follow God because of what God does for me or because of who God is?
2. Do I still trust God when God doesn’t answer my prayer the way I want, or do I walk away?
3. Do I serve God because I love God, or because I’m hoping for something in return?

Key Scripture

¹You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you in a dry and parched land where there is no water. ³Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. ⁸I cling to you. Your right hand upholds me. Psalm 63:1, 3, 8 NIV

Additional Scriptures

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. Eph. 2:4-5 NIV

Start Talking

- Have you ever put money into a vending machine and didn’t get what you ordered? What was that experience like?
- Think about some of your closest relationships. What qualities do they have in common? How do they differ from your relationship with a contractor that you hire?

Start Thinking

- Which part of the message was most impactful for you and why?
- Which word or phrase from the Key Scripture speaks to you?

Start Sharing

- How does the writer’s relationship with God encourage or inspire you? In what ways have you had the experience of thirsting for God and being fully satisfied as with the richest of foods?
- What parts of your faith are transactional rather than relational? What would it look like to let go of expectations and focus on God’s heart?
- Talk about a time when you felt like God let you down. How did you process your disappointment? How does knowing our faith is meant to be covenantal and not contractual impact how you view that disappointment?

Start Praying

Loving God, thank you for wanting a true relationship with us. We’re sorry for the times when we’ve prioritized your things over knowing you. We confess that we don’t earnestly seek you as the psalmist does. We recognize that there is more to your love than we have ever known. We want to experience this love that is better than life. Please give us a hunger and thirst for you that only you can satisfy. We want to know you more. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Start Doing

- Commit to praying daily, “God, help me to know you and love you for who you are, not just what you do.”
- Commit to actively pursue your relationship with Jesus through a spiritual discipline such as worship, prayer, or Bible reading.
- Start the Bible Plan *What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus*: www.go2.lc/jesus