

NOTHING AND EVERYTHING

PART 2: HAVE FAITH IN GOD

Without God, we can do nothing, but with God, we can do all things. God is not on our leash, but we should be on His. All our desires should be to please God. God's will is always best.

John 15:1-5

- We are the branches connected the vine, which is Jesus. We are not the fruit—yet, we often act like the fruit because we let the world consume us, pulling us away from the vine and throwing the remains away. Stop letting the world consume you, pulling you away from the vine, and throwing you away when they're done with you. Stay connected to the vine, which is Jesus Christ. Without Him, you can do nothing!
- We stay connected to the vine, yes, through prayer, worship, and the Word; but also, through fellowship as believers.

Luke 18:18-27; Mark 9:23

- With God, all things are possible. We can activate our faith and believe God for big things—truly, they are only big to us. Show God your faith through your actions. "Keep giving, and watch what I do."

Luke 18:1-8

- We need to activate our faith and put action behind what we believe.
- When Jesus Christ returns, will He really find faith on the earth? When Jesus comes to you and knocks on your heart, will He find faith? God will *surely* give justice to His chosen people who He finds crying out day and night (v.7).

Mark 11:12-25

- Sometimes we treat faith like something we have to drum up when we need God to do something. But we should live by faith (Romans 1:17).
- V.17 God is calling us back to prayer, staying connected to the vine.
- V.22 "Have faith in God." Jesus was demonstrating His lifestyle of having and protecting His faith in God.

Galatians 6:9; Deuteronomy 4:25

- Part of maintaining that lifestyle of faith is doing what's right.
- Don't make idols—that's letting the world pull you away from the vine.

Dopamine

- Dopamine is a chemical messenger that plays a big part in how we feel pleasure. It helps us strive, focus, and find things interesting. It affects many parts of your behavior and physical functions, such as learning, motivation, heart rate, blood vessel function, kidney function, lactation, sleep, mood, attention, control of nausea and vomiting, pain processing, and movement.
- Addictions such as cocaine, alcohol, and social media cause a big, fast increase of dopamine in your brain. That satisfies your natural reward system in a big way. But repeated use also raises the threshold for this kind of pleasure. This means you need to take more to get the same high. Meanwhile, this makes your body less able to produce dopamine naturally. This leads to emotional lows and depression.
- Is dopamine your idol?

Deuteronomy 5:33; Ephesians 6:10-20

- We are going to be occupying, but we must stay on the path that God has commanded us to follow.