

"CASTING YOUR BREAD UPON THE WATERS"

Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:14



The Reward Of Having
**A "FAITH" BASED
PERSPECTIVE**

The Reward Of Having

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

"Life under the sun"



- ▶ The message of Ecclesiastes - "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity." Over and over we are reminded that life is frequently disappointing, unfair, oppressive, tragic, and SEEMINGLY without point or meaning.
- ▶ Should we take the message of Ecclesiastes to be predominately negative?

The Reward Of Having

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“Life under the sun”



- ▶ The last two chapters emphasize the need to view & live life by faith in God & with loyalty to God.
- ▶ There are numerous applications of the principles found in this section: (social & economic - spiritual & evangelistic, etc.) -

ECCLIESIASTES 11:1-8 (NKJV)

¹ Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. ² Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth. ³ If the clouds are full of rain, They empty themselves upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.

ECCELESIASTES 11:1-8 (NKJV)

⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap. ⁵ As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything. ⁶ In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand;

ECCLIESIASTES 11:1-8 (NKJV)

For you do not know which will prosper,
Either this or that, Or whether both
alike will be good. ⁷ Truly the light is
sweet, And it is pleasant for the eyes to
behold the sun; ⁸ But if a man lives
many years And rejoices in them all,
Yet let him remember the days of
darkness, For they will be many. All
that is coming is vanity.

The Reward Of Having

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Investment of Sacrificial Living

INVESTING LONG TERM

Ecclesiastes 11:1 (NKJV)

¹ Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days.

² Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

- ▶ Various interpretations have been given:
 - ✳ Sowing seed in wetlands -
 - ✳ A merchant sending food abroad on ships -
 - ✳ Be willing to take risks -
 - ✳ Engaging in thankless tasks

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- ▶ The traditional Jewish view is one of charity, and that one's benevolence should be practiced freely without a view to personal return. -
- ▶ The general principle - we reap what we sow - (John 12:25; Mat 7:2; Luke 6:38).

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- ▶ There is CERTAIN reward for ALL who by faith persevere in doing good - 1 Cor 15:58
- ✳ Example of Job - James 5:11; Job 1:12,22; 2:10
- ✳ Example of Moses - Hb 11:24-26
- ✳ Example of Paul - 2 Cor 4:16-5:7
- ✳ All faithful - 2 Ti 4:8; Rev 14:13

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INVESTING IN MANY

Ecclesiastes 11:1 (NKJV)

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² Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

► "Give a serving to seven, & also to eight" ...

- * Diversify your investments - i.e., use many ships to transport your goods ... ? (Delitzsch and others)
- * Unlimited benevolence, i.e., help as many people as you can who are poor and in need ... ? (Barnes Luke 16:9)
- * 7 = perfect # / 8 = eternity ... ?

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INVESTING IN MANY

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► "Give a serving to seven, & also to eight" ...

✳ Serve as many people as you can now, because the time may come when you need help from others" (Luke 16:9; 2 Corinthians 8:14; Galatians 6:1).

✳ It is IMPORTANT to take advantage of opportunities when they appear - Jam 4:17; Lk 12:48;

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MAKING APPLICATIONS

Ecclesiastes 11:1 (NKJV)

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² Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

- ▶ Most apply the principle to benevolence - but can also be applied to:
 - ✳ Being actively involved in good works - Our influence - Mt 5:13-16; Rom 12:1,2; 1 Pet 3:1-6
 - ✳ Mercy / Forgiveness - Luke 6:38
 - ✳ Evangelism / sowing the seed - Mat 13:18-23; 1 Cor 3:5-8; 9:19-23

The Reward Of Having

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The Value of Persistent Faithfulness

**ACT IN FAITH DESPITE THE
PROBLEMS OF LIFE**

Ecclesiastes 11:3-4 (NKJV)

³ If the clouds are full of rain, They empty *themselves* upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie. ⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.

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ACT IN FAITH DESPITE THE PROBLEMS OF LIFE



- ▶ Problems of life will come, and there is nothing that we can do to stop them (7:3).
- ✳ We cannot allow our focus to be on the negatives of life. - Pr. 3:27; 20:4; 22:13; Mat 14:28-31
- ✳ We CANNOT allow any APPARENT lack of success to dissuade us from continued faithfulness - 1 Cor 3:5-8; James 4:17
- ✳ God will not accept our excuses!!

The Reward Of Having

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Value of Persistent Faithfulness

ACT IN FAITH DESPITE OUR
IGNORANCE OF THE FUTURE

Ecclesiastes 11:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ As you do not know what *is* the way of the wind, Or how the bones *grow* in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything. ⁶ In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike *will be* good.

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ACT IN FAITH DESPITE OUR IGNORANCE OF THE FUTURE



- ▶ When dealing with God, there will always be that element of mystery and wonder (7:3).
- ✳ There are MANY things we CANNOT know - we CANNOT comprehend - Deut 29:29; Rom 11:33
- ✳ If we REALLY TRUST God we will continue to obey His commands, even if and when we do NOT fully understand the why of it, or the how it will accomplish God's will - 2 Ki 5; Gen 16-18; etc

The Reward Of Having

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The Joy of Faithfulness

**FAITHFULNESS BRINGS
FULFILLMENT**

Ecclesiastes 11:7-8 (NKJV)

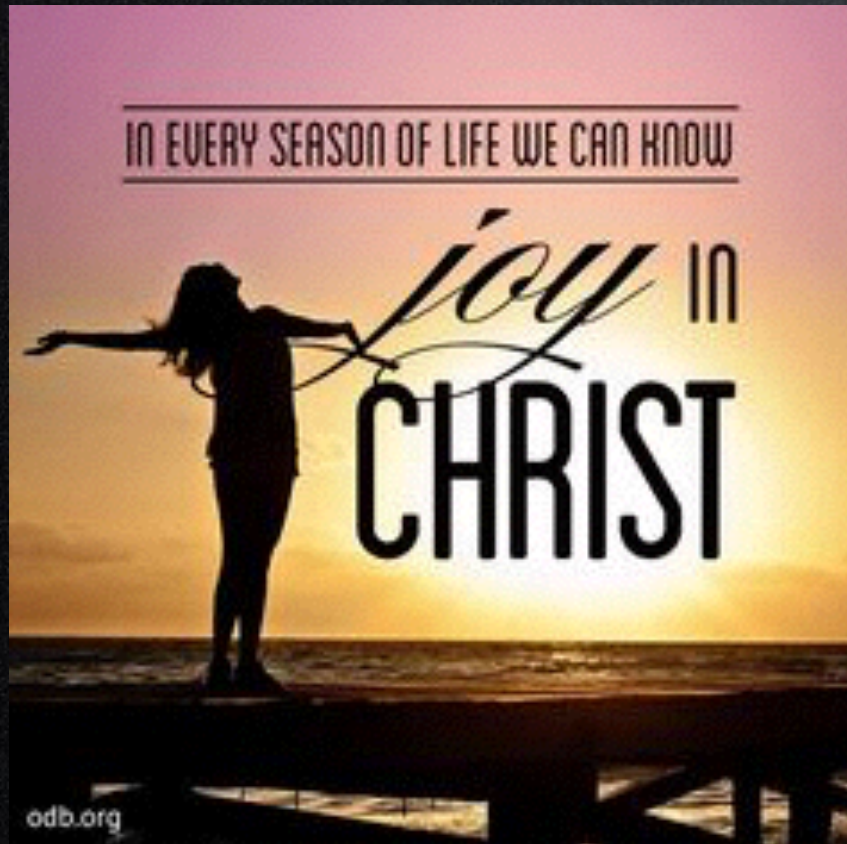
⁷ Truly the light is sweet, And *it is* pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; ⁸ But if a man lives many years *And* rejoices in them all, Yet let him remember the days of darkness, For they will be many. All that is coming *is* vanity.

The Reward Of Having

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The Joy of Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS BRINGS FULFILLMENT



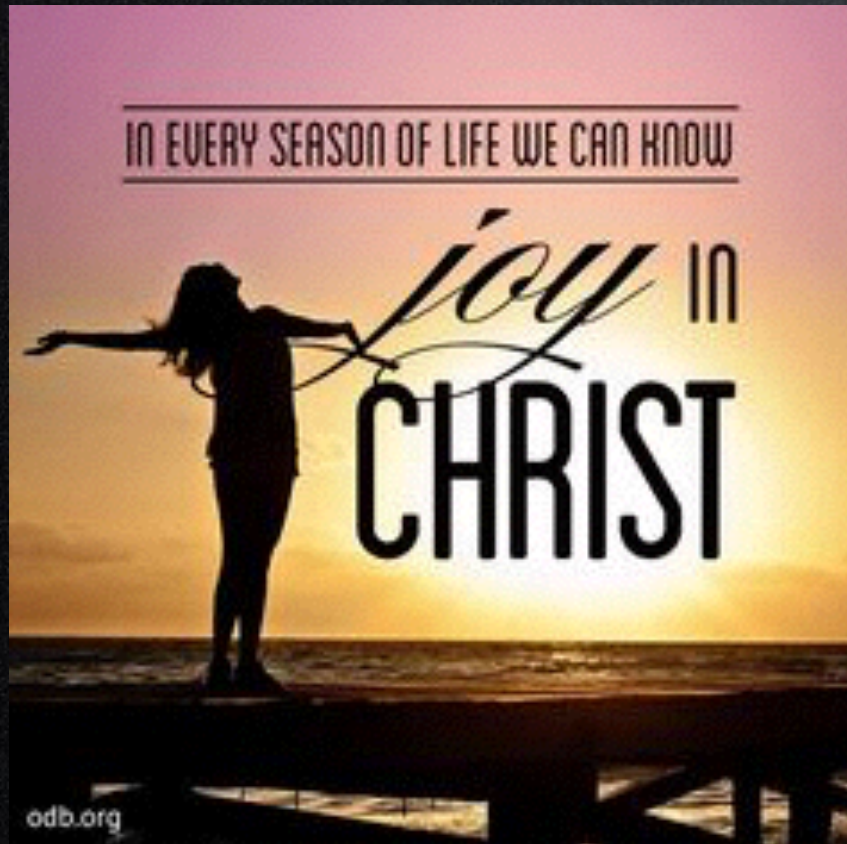
- ▶ “When one acts benevolently and works diligently as Koheleth has previously advised, life is worth living, and affords continuous enjoyment for the faithful worker.” - Smith, J. E. (1996). The wisdom literature and Psalms (Ec 11:7).

The Reward Of Having

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The Joy of Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS BRINGS FULFILLMENT



- ▶ A believer is to enjoy their physical life (Ecc 2:24; 3:12,22; 5:18; 8:15).
- ▶ There is beauty in every stage of life - (Eccl 3:1-11)
- ▶ True joy can ONLY be realized by seeing things through the eyes of faith - (Phili 4:6-13).

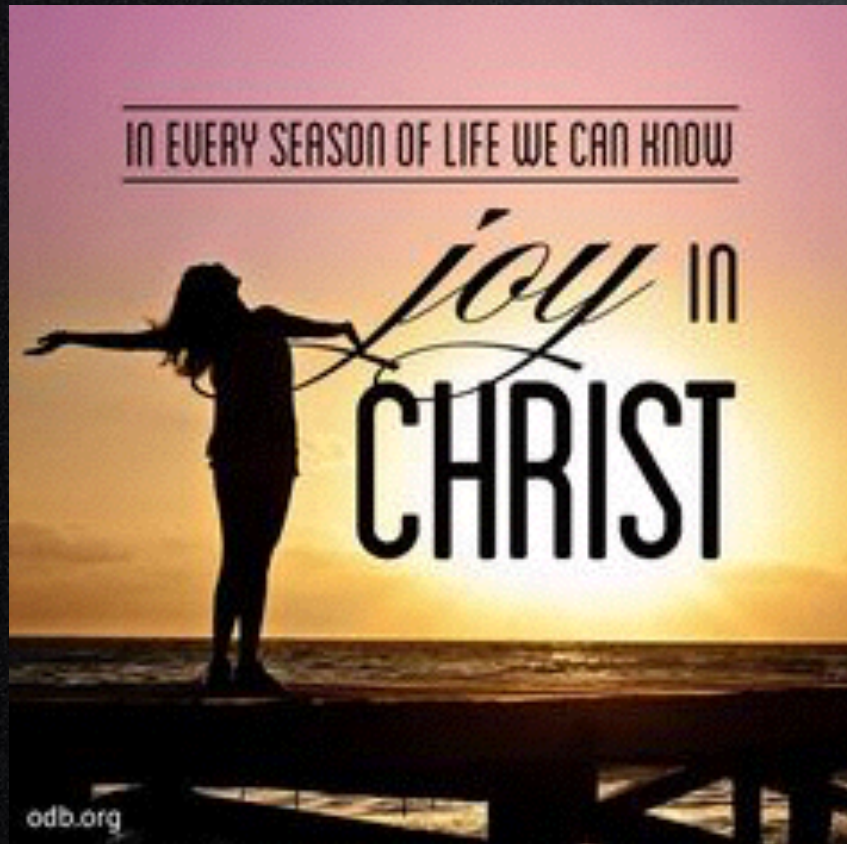
The Reward Of Having

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The Earlier The Better

REMEMBER GOD IN YOUTH

- ▶ Youth is to be enjoyed - but NOT wasted - TRUE JOY IS ONLY EXPERIENCED IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD - 11:9a
- ▶ We will give account to God how we live - 11:9b
- ▶ So be joyful - be holy - youth will not last - 11:10



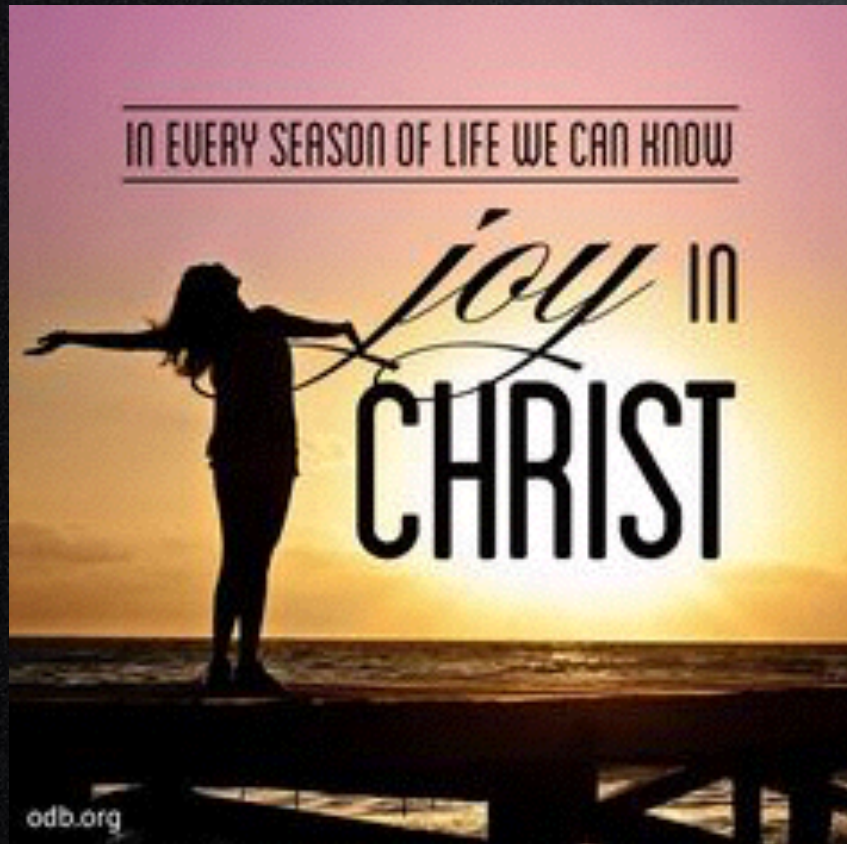
The Reward Of Having

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The Earlier The Better

REMEMBER GOD IN YOUTH

- ▶ Before difficult days come (12:1,2)
 - * Strength is lost, lose teeth – (12:3)
 - * Everything becomes more difficult, hearing loss – (12:4)
 - * Weak and feeble, gray headed, everything hard, no pleasure in things once enjoyed – (12:5)
 - * Death, people mourn – (12:6)



The Reward Of Having

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"Life under the sun" Will End



Ecclesiastes 12:7–8
(NKJV)

⁷ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. ⁸ “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “All is vanity.”

The Reward Of Having

A“FAITH” Based Perspective

The Eternal Reward of Faith



Ecclesiastes 12:13–14
(NKJV)

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

The Reward Of Having

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The Eternal Reward of Faith



2 Corinthians 5:10
(NKJV)

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

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The Eternal Reward of Faith

1 Peter 1:6–9 (NKJV)

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

The Reward Of Having

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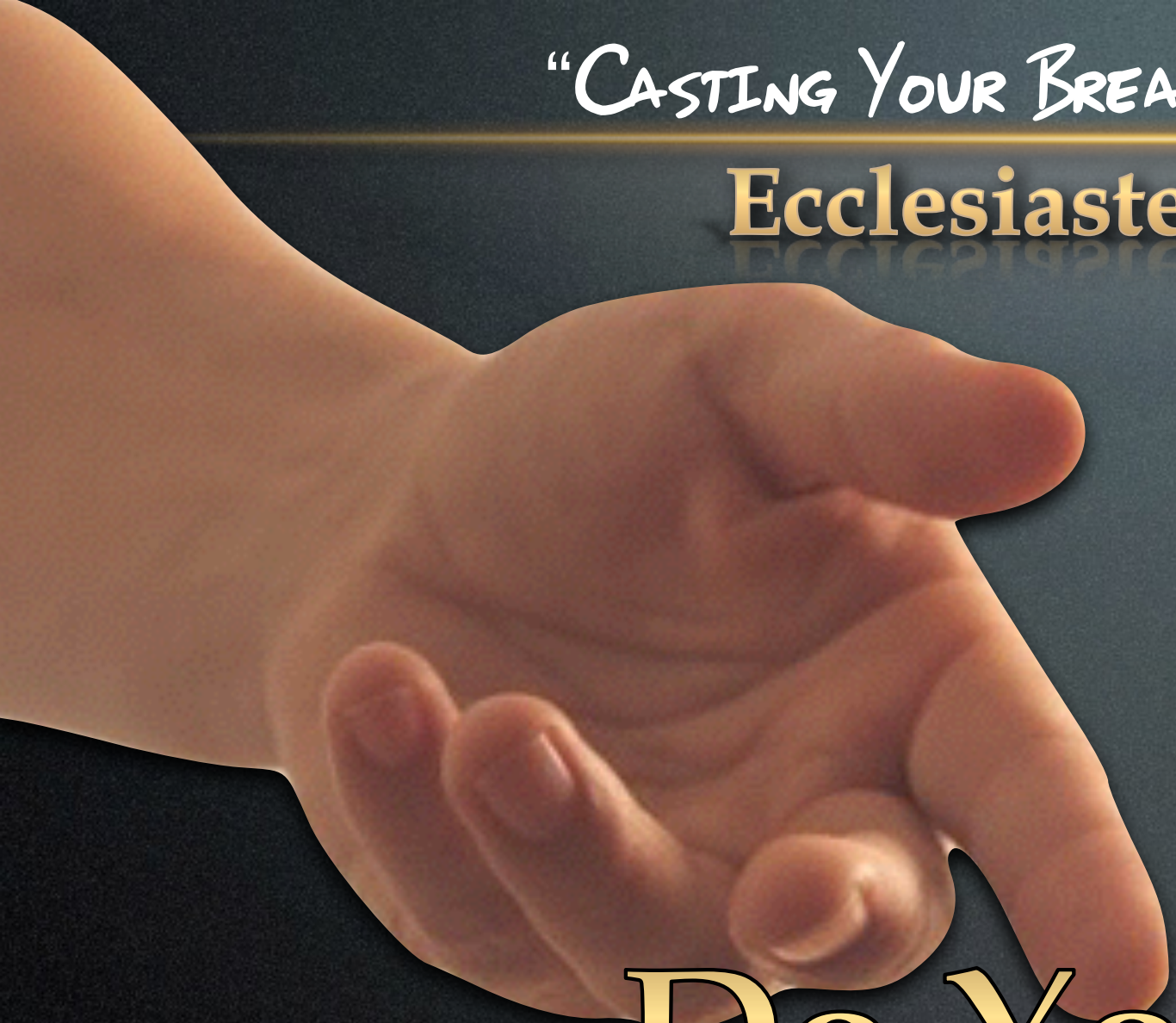
The Eternal Reward of Faith



- ▶ Hear the word of God - Rom 10:17
- ▶ Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God - John 8:24; Heb 11:6
- ▶ By faith - repent - Acts 17:30
- ▶ By faith confess Jesus - Rom 10:10
- ▶ Be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-6; Gal 3:26,27; Col 2:12,13
- ▶ Live by faith - 1 Cor 15:58; 2 Pet 1:5-10

"CASTING YOUR BREAD UPON THE WATERS"

Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:14



**Do You Have
A "FAITH" BASED
PERSPECTIVE
Of Life?**

A close-up of a human hand, palm up, holding a piece of golden-brown bread. The bread is torn open, revealing a soft, white interior. The background is dark and reflective.

The Reward Of Having **A "FAITH" BASED PERSPECTIVE**

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2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12 (NKJV)

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12 (NKJV)

¹² For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.