

# Outline

## The Petersons: A Living Example of Impossible Joy

**“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.” Hebrews 11:6 NIV**

**God is pleased with us when we believe that He exists and that He loves to reward those who ask Him to reward them.**

- Like when we take advantage of His Infinite Wisdom and Experience to Know what is best for us – just like me as a parent when my kids trust my experience in their lives.
- Living life on my terms leads only to doldrums spotlighted by moments of happiness.
- Living life on God’s term’s leads to Impossible Joy that remains consistent in high times and low times.
- Happiness is the absence of sorrow and the creation of a positive feeling for a moment in time.

Joy, on the other hand, is the utter acceptance that life is good and that God is in control and will do nothing to hurt or destroy me, but can be trusted to be in control in good times and bad. Joy is the contentment that all will be okay, because God is in control.

**“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1 NIV**

**Living by Faith that God exists and that He will reward me when I earnestly seek Him requires scary steps.**

- I have to just accept and believe and be sure of, not what I have in hand and can achieve on my own, but simply on the hope of what has been promised.
- I must absolutely trust and believe and be certain of what I do not see. And what is it that I do not see – God!
- The chief gateway emotion of faith – Fear. Faith always involves fear, for when I put my trust in hopes and try to be certain of the unknown, I am called to do things that are outside my comfort zone, obey commands that no one else is doing, step off the cliffs of the firm foundation of safe, knowable routine, controlled livable situations.
- God speaks to all of us everyday and asks us to trust Him and follow His lead into the unknown.

It is outside the comfort zone that we find God waiting. And it is where God is that we find the Impossible Joy of a fulfilling life.

**August 30, 2009**

Today, I give you a modern day Abraham and Sarah, who, just like the patriarch of the Bible that I talked about two weeks ago, obeyed God in faith and went to a land that he would show them. They left the comforts of home to seek out God's will for them.

- Lynn and Melissa Peterson

**August 30, 2009**