

The Faith of Enoch
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC
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Text: Hebrews 11:5-6

Purpose: We are called to walk with God by faith. Enoch's walk was so close to God that the scripture records, "*Enoch walked with God and was not.*"

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned down. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom and gloom pessimist.



Just to see what would happen, on the twins' birthday their father loaded the pessimist's room with every imaginable toy and game. In the optimist's room he put a pile of horse manure.

That night the father passed by the pessimist's room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying bitterly.

"Why are you crying?" the father asked.

"Because my friends will be jealous, I'll have to read all these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff, I'll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get

broken," answered the pessimist twin.

Passing the optimist twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure.

"What are you so happy about?" he asked.

To which his optimist twin replied, "Look at all this manure! There's got to be a pony in here somewhere!"

Today we optimistically return to the topic of faith found in the 11th chapter of Hebrews. Last week we looked at the faith of Abel who brought a better sacrifice to the Lord than his brother Cain. As a result of Cain's jealousy and anger, Cain killed Abel and was put away from his family just East of Eden in the land of Nod.



Hebrews moves gradually through the bible and highlights several individuals that revealed the remarkable characteristic of faith. If you were to add more names and examples of faith to this list, who would you add? Would your life be an example of someone that has exercised faith and trust in God? If not, then these examples stand before us in order to call us back to a life of faith.

Our story today begins with one of those men we rarely hear about. His name is Enoch. He truly is one of those mysterious people in the bible. There are only fifty words in the Old Testament that describes him. For those of you that like to hear new words, the people that lived before the time of Noah's flood are called ante-diluvians. Those people that lived during that time lived a long, long life. On the back of

your bulletin, you will find an interesting chart that lists the ages of various Old Testament people and compares their age to each other at certain times in history.

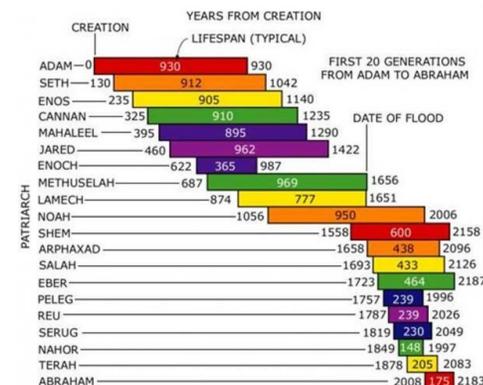
For example, when Adam died at the age of 980, Seth was 800 years old, Enoch was 308 years old, and Noah was 56 years old. Imagine living at a time where you could say, "Hey, I personally know Adam!"

The story of Enoch is recorded in Genesis 5:21-24 and it says this about him ...

Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years, and had sons and daughters. So all of the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not for God took him.

Can you imagine living three hundred and sixty-five years? At that age, if Enoch were to die this year, it would mean that he was born in 1657. The settlers at Plymouth Virginia would have been there 37 years when Methuselah was born. He would have been 119 years old when the Constitution of the United States was signed. He would have turned 300 years old in 1957, the same age that he begot Methuselah.

But Enoch's life was short compared to his other relatives. Adam lived to be 930 years old. Seth, the son that was born after Cain and Abel, lived to be 912. But Methuselah lived to be 969 years old – the oldest person recorded in the bible.



There is even a bristlecone pine tree in California that is thought to be about 4858 years old (as of 2022), called the Methuselah tree. It was thought to be the oldest tree until they found another one in 2012 that is 218 years older (as of 2022).

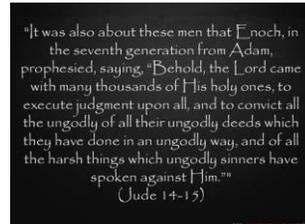


Something must have happened in Enoch's life when Methuselah was born. Maybe he realized something special about life and lived the remainder of his days, 300 years walking by faith. Doesn't it sometimes take a life changing event to occur for us to turn to God and redirect our lives? Maybe that was Enoch's case.

Enoch served his community as a prophet for over 300 years, preaching an unwelcome message of repentance. We find this recorded in the New Testament book of Jude verses 14-15.

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousand of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Enoch preached repentance among a group of people that became more and more ungodly as time went by.

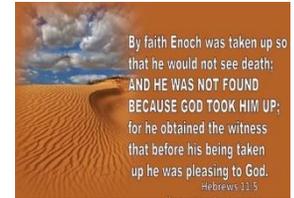


Enoch's Translation

Enoch was a man of great character, but the most amazing thing that occurred in his life was what God did to him. In Genesis it says, "*Enoch walked with God; then he was not more, because God took him away.*" God took Enoch to be with Him without having to go through the doorway of death.



The passage of scripture where Enoch's story is told lists all of his relative and who they gave birth to, but at the end of each name, it says "and he died." But that was not the case for Enoch. Hebrews 11:5 says, "*By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found because God had taken him away.*"



We do not know exactly how that happened. We do know that the only other person to have been translated from life on this earth to heaven without going through death was Elijah. In 2 Kings 2:1 we read that God took him up in a whirlwind in a chariot.



Why did God choose Enoch over the others? It could have been his character, but the scripture says it was because of his faith. His faith pleased God. It pleased God so much that God commended him for his faith.

Enoch's Walk

When we say Enoch pleased God, we can only imagine that this pleasure only came about through a consistent “*walk with God.*”



You know when you walk with someone it is necessary to adopt the same pace as the person you are walking with. If you were to go walking with my mother when she was younger, you had better put on some very good, fast shoes. She walked as if she was headed to a fire and she is responsible for putting it out! Today, she moves much slower. When I'm with her now I have to adjust my speed to match hers.

Amos 3:3 says, “*Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?*” If you walk with someone, you have to agree on a destination. You also need to agree on the same path if you are to “walk together.” Enoch and God apparently agreed on the same destination and the same path.

But you also need to walk together at the same pace. Enoch was step for step in pace with God. If we are to journey with God, we need to attempt to discern His destination for our life, we need to follow the path He has chosen for us, but we also need to walk with God at the same pace. Galatians 5:25 encourages us to “*keep in step with the Spirit.*”

As Enoch walked with God, two wonderful things were produced. Enoch enjoyed the fellowship with God and that



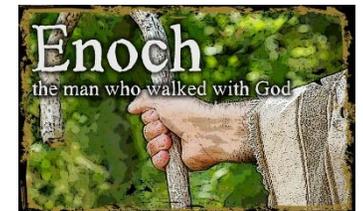
fellowship led to righteous living. Enoch did this for 300 years!

Warren Wiersbe says this about Enoch. Enoch had been walking with God for so many years that his transfer to heaven was not even an interruption. Enoch had been practicing Colossians chapter three for centuries before Paul wrote the wonderful words: “... *keep seeking the things above ... Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*”



There is a story told over and over about Enoch that I feel I should share with you this morning. I have tried to find out who first told this story, but I have been unable to determine who that was. J. Vernon McGee tells this in his commentary on the Book of Hebrews.

A little girl came home from Sunday school and her mother asked her, “What did the teacher tell you about today?” The little girl said, “She told us all about this man Enoch.” The mother asked, “What did she have to say about Enoch?”



Enoch lived a long time ago, and God would come by every afternoon and say to him, ‘Enoch, would you like to take a walk with me?’ Enoch would say yes, “Yes, I’d like to take a walk with you, God.’ And so every day God would come by Enoch’s house, and Enoch would go walking with God. One day God came by and said, ‘Enoch, lets take a long walk today. I want to talk to you.’ So they started out. Enoch got his coat – even took his lunch, and they started walking, and

finally it got late. Enoch said, ‘My, it’s getting late and I am a long way from home. Maybe we’d better start back.’ But God said, ‘Enoch you are closer to My home than you are to your home, so you come on and go home with Me.’ And so, Enoch went home with God.”

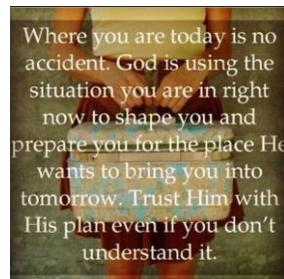
Isn't that a great story? Enoch's walk pleased God.

Enoch's Faith

The other side of the coin of a daily walk with God is faith. Hebrews says, *“By faith Enoch was taken from this life. So that he did not experience death; he could not be found because God had taken him away.”* The Old Testament account of Enoch does not mention faith, but faith and a righteous walk with God are inseparable. It is faith that precedes and produces the walk with God that pleases God.

Faith is the key that unlocks our relationship with God.

Where you are today is no accident. God is using the situation you are in right now to shape you and prepare you for the place He wants to bring you into tomorrow. Trust Him with His plan even if you don't understand it.



Hebrews 11:6 says, *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him.”* If you look at this verse carefully, it does not say “But without faith it is *difficult* to please God.” No ... It says it is impossible! Even the Apostle Paul echo's that theme – that God cannot and will not be pleased by our works or our own self-generated righteousness. Our righteousness

only comes through accepting Jesus Christ and becoming joint heirs of Christ's righteousness.

Without this faith, we are all under the wrath of God. Christians understand that *“it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The implied emphasis we see in Hebrews is that we need to exercise our faith daily. If we are not living a life of faith, then we cannot be pleasing to God. We cannot have God smile on our lives if we do not have faith.

That He Exists

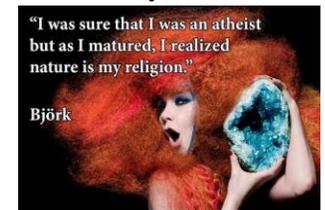
“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and the He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (11:6)



That smile of God only falls upon those that believe He exists.

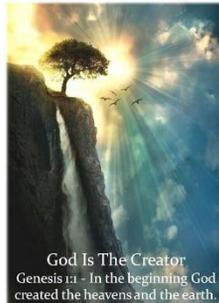
R. Kent Hughes in his commentary on Hebrews says this belief can be broken down into three different levels. The first one is simply – **“He is.”** The people of the world in which we live in today go about their daily activities as if there is no God.

The decisions that people make do not regard the plans God may have. There was a time when the people were very religious. They saw God everywhere and in everything. That is called Pantheism. Annie Dillard describes today as a shift from Pantheism to Pan-atheism.



I just smile when I think that there is not one demon that is an atheist. James 2:19 says, *“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble!”* Believing in God is only the beginning.

The second level that is required is to believe **“God is.”** That is to accept the stories found in the Old Testament as truthful and this is the God who is the creator of the world. We must believe in the God of Genesis chapter one, who spoke creation into existence. We need to believe in a personal Creator who so carefully knit us together in our mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13). We need to believe the God of the Old Testament miraculously worked wonders and saved and preserved His chosen people.



But that is not sufficient. We also need to believe in the God of the New Testament that sent His one and Only Son to die on a cross for *your* sin and mine. Christ came and revealed the Father to us. Hebrews 1:1-2 says, *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”*

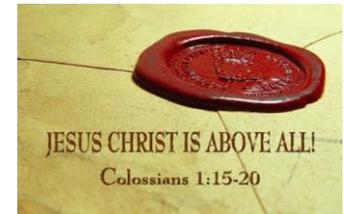


Jesus Christ is God’s final revelation of Himself. He has completed His work and there are no new revelations. The Muslims believe God provided a new revelation to Muhammad and they have the *Koran*. The Mormons believe God provided a new revelation to Joseph Smith and they have the *Book of Mormon*, the



Pearl of Great Price, and the *Doctrine and Covenants*. But the scripture is clear; Jesus Christ is God’s final revelation. To accept any other is to stray from the truth and it will lead to eternal separation from God.

Colossians 1:15-20 describes Christ so eloquently.



He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

How awesome and great is our God! We do not need any greater revelations of God. We simply need to believe that God has forgiven us through the cross – that is God’s measure of His love for you. He was willing to die for your sins.

Christ is the Creator, Sustainer of each of us. He loves us abundantly and undeservingly. All we are called to do is believe!

That He Rewards

Enoch's faith that led him to walk with God also allowed him to believe that "God is the rewarder of those that diligently seek Him." Just as Jude spoke of judgment of those that reject the love of God; it is the same God that will be the rewarder of those that follow Him.



We may feel that we live in awful times. You read in the paper of murder, homes being broken into, vandalism and drug use is so prevalent in this town. In Enoch's day, it was so bad that God actually destroyed the world and all that lived in it except for Noah and his family. Enoch's son Methuselah, the one who lived to be 969 years old, died the year the flood came.

Enoch walked with God, step by step, day by day, for 300 years – in the midst of a corrupt culture. Why was He able to do that? Because he believed that God is, that "He exists" and that "God is a rewarder of those that earnestly seek Him." In Enoch's case, God rewarded Him with a home in Heaven.

We can hold on to that kind of promise for ourselves. God will reward our righteous walk if we trust Him and keep our faith solidly anchored in Jesus Christ.

Do you truly believe? Or are you simply playing games with God?

He is calling us to walk closer by His side and trust Him with our paths, pace, and destination. God's going to call us home one day – let's be ready for Him!

LET US PRAY