

The Life of Faith: Enoch (Hebrews 11:5-6)

Our three favourite people are often me, myself, and I. There is this preoccupation of self that dominates plans and pleasures. Whether this is seen in our attitudes or actions, in the home or in the shops, the preoccupation of pleasing self reigns. There really is only an audience of one that we need to please. It is not self; it is the Sovereign Creator of heaven and earth. In this message I want to tell you about a man who pleased God. His life is fascinating and curious (particularly his disappearance). But the focus of this message is what happened before he went. He lived a life of faith and there is something very practical and precious for us to learn. We will do this by considering the *record of Enoch's walk* and the *reason for Enoch's walk*.

1. The Record of Enoch's Walk

The story of Enoch is limited to only four verses in Genesis 5. Enoch lived in a time when wickedness dominated the world scene. In the midst of all of this, Enoch stood out. His life was not praised by the world, but it was prized by God. In Genesis 5 we have the genealogy from Adam and we read the frequently occurring words "and he died" (eight times). This chapter contains a series of obituaries, but something stands out as it breaks the trend of what we see occurring frequently in this chapter. After stating that so and so lived for a certain amount of years, had children, and then died. The record of Enoch is different. He walked with God and God took him (Gen. 5:21-24). To walk with God means you are going in a Divine direction. There is an intimacy in this term. To walk with God presupposes that one is saved and as a result of their salvation, their life is in harmony with this grand truth. Then suddenly, Enoch had disappeared from the face of the earth because God took him. What do we have here? This is the pre-rapture rapture! I do think this is a preview of what will occur to all those who are alive at the Lord's return for His people (cf. 1 Thess. 4:13-16).

2. The Reason for Enoch's Walk

Enoch lived a life that was pleasing to God. What does a life that is pleasing to God look like? Consider two features found in Hebrews 11:6: A life that pleases God in faith believes that *God is real* and that *He is a rewarder*. Enoch serves as an example of the importance of living our lives in the face of God's presence. No matter what you think, regardless of your understanding of the Scriptures, or what your level of Christian maturity is, your life is always lived in the presence of God whether you accept it or not.

Conclusion

You can achieve great things in this world. You can have great power. You can have your possessions. You can even gain popularity. But all of these are temporary. They will be taken from you. What matters most in this life is, are your pleasing to God?

Group Discussion

1. Walking with God means to go in a Divine direction. How can we be walking in a Divine direction? Look up the following passages and discuss: Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:7; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 5:2; Eph. 5:8; 1 John 1:7; Eph. 5:15.
2. When did Enoch start walking with God? What significance could be made from this?
3. Why do people deny the existence of God? See Psalm 14:1 and Romans 1:18-23.
4. The words, "*must believe that he exists*" are literally "*must believe that he is*". We are to believe all that Scripture says with reference to God and then trust Him. List some things that we are to believe that God is and how does this help us please Him?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:9 and rephrase it as a personal prayer.