

Heroic Faith

Part 3

Enoch: A Man Who Walked With God

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TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of **DISCIPLE**, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Enoch "walked with God"...straight into heaven and the "**Hall of Faith**"! Let's learn from him.

Observation—*What do I see?*

- According to Genesis 5:21–24, what repeated phrase describes Enoch's relationship with God? How is Enoch's end described differently from others (see Genesis 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27 & 31)?
- In Hebrews 11:5, what specific reasons are given for Enoch's being taken up? What was said to be true of him before he was taken?
- In Jude 14–15, what role is Enoch portrayed as having, and what message is attributed to him?

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- What exactly did Pastor Doug say that "walking with God" means? (See [Sermon Summary](#).)
- How does Hebrews 11:5–6 interpret Enoch's life in terms of faith? What is the relationship between faith and pleasing God?
- How does Jude's portrayal of Enoch (Jude 3-4 & 14-16) fill-out Genesis' description of him?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- Since Hebrews 11:6 links pleasing God with faith in the One True God, how does Enoch's example challenge the idea of merely having "sincerely held beliefs" as achieving acceptance before God?
- Does your life honestly qualify as "walking with God" in today's fallen world? Why or why not?
- To what degree does Enoch's hope-filled destiny (being taken by God) shape your perspective on perseverance, holiness, and final judgment? Tell us about it.

Sermon Summary Key Texts: Hebrews 11:5-6; Genesis 5:21-24; Jude 14-15

In the midst of all the people who died in Genesis 5 is the name of the next man we are going to meet in God's Hall of Faith as recorded for us in Hebrews chapter 11—a man named Enoch. Enoch was "the seventh from Adam" (Jude 1:14) through Adam's godly son Seth. He is quite a contrast to Lamech who was the seventh from Adam through the lineage of Adam's ungodly son Cain. The difference in the two is that Enoch walked by faith—while the Lamech walked by flesh (Genesis 4:18-24 & 5:18-24). One of the unique things about Enoch is that God took him so that he did not see death. But before God took him, Enoch had a powerful testimony that pleased God. As there are only nine verses devoted to his life, we know very little about him. Here's what we know:

I. Enoch Walked with God (Genesis 5:21-22). We are told that Enoch began walking with the Lord after the birth of Methuselah. The name "Methuselah" means, "when he dies; judgment." While that seems to be a strange meaning for a name, it makes sense when you compare it with what the book of Jude tells us about Enoch (Jude 14,15). Enoch was given this information concerning his own generation. But judgement would not come in Enoch's or in his son's lifetime. Therefore, Enoch named his son, "when he dies; judgment." Methuselah lived to be 969 years old (Genesis 5:27). So, God gave the earth 969 years of grace before calamity came. That is a wonderful picture of God's patience and longsuffering with the human race. But why did God promise to send judgment upon the earth after Methuselah died (Genesis 6:5)? Enoch lived in a time when it was probably very difficult to walk with God. In Jude 14 and 15 the word "ungodly" is found four times when describing the world God had prophesied through Enoch that he would judge. What that tells me is that it is possible to walk with God in the midst of ungodliness.

I suspect that morally and spiritually speaking, Enoch's culture was much worse than ours. Yet somehow, he found it possible to walk in fellowship with God from the time his son was born until God took him to be with himself (Genesis 5:21-24). There is no explanation for his decision. There is no indication that God pressured him into it. He just made a decision when his son Methuselah was born that things were going to be different moving forward. The person he had been, he would no longer be. The reason Enoch walked so closely with God is that he agreed with God (Amos 3:3). He decided to desire what God desired. He decided to want what God wanted. He decided to trust God in a serious way. Enoch walked so closely with God that God chose to disclose to him the Judgment he was planning to send upon the world. The idea is that God discloses himself to those who choose to walk with Him. But not everyone chooses to walk with Him. It's one thing to walk closely with God when lots of people around you are doing so. But that wasn't the world in which Enoch lived. It was a time of great evil. It was in that world that Enoch chose to walk in fellowship with God (Malachi 2:6).

II. Enoch Was Pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:5-6). To not experience death is a great privilege of faith. Enoch's faith produced a godly lifestyle that greatly pleased God. In response to this godly life, he was taken to heaven without seeing death (v. 5). God does not grant us faith so that we can work miracles. He grants it so that we can live lives that please Him. A God pleasing life is the greatest miracle of all! The fact that sinful, rebellious human beings can be so transformed—that they live God-pleasing lives—is a miracle of the highest order. One way Enoch pleased God was by seeking after Him (v. 6). God rewards those who seek Him. When everyone else in Enoch's day was seeking the way of the world, Enoch was seeking after God! Faith always finds a way to trust and please God. When making decisions, there are some questions we can ask ourselves that will greatly narrow our options and greatly increase the likelihood of making God pleasing decisions. Based upon your knowledge of Scripture, ask yourself: What will most please God? What will bring Him the greatest glory? What will best advance love of God and neighbor? What seems to be the wisest course of action?

III. Enoch witnessed for God (Jude 14,15). Like Jude, the book of Enoch recorded Enoch's prophetic witness to God's coming judgment. Enoch, by faith, was a fearless proclaimer of God's Word. Now that brings us to the unique circumstances marking the end of Enoch's life here on earth (Hebrews 11:5). Enoch went from walking with God on earth one day, to walking with Him in heaven the next! God invites us to walk in fellowship with Him—just like Enoch did (John 15:12-15). So, let's determine to be a people of faith—to walk with God as Enoch did. Let's decide to live lives that are pleasing to Him. Let's bear witness for Him in this deteriorating culture.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Walking with God" is a thoroughly biblical concept, grounded in both Old and New Testaments.
Let's see what God tells us about how we can walk intimately with him...

Monday— Fellowship rooted in covenant relationship (Genesis 17:1 & Deuteronomy 10:12).

Tuesday— Moral obedience is shaped by God's revealed will (Deuteronomy 5:33 & Psalm 119:1-3).

Wednesday— It involves humble dependence and God-ward orientation (Proverbs 3:5-6 & Isaiah 30:21).

Thursday— Union with Christ is the basis of the Christian walk (Colossians 3:1-4 & Romans 6:1-4).

Friday— Walking with God is life in the Spirit rather than life in the flesh (Galatians 5:16-26).

Saturday— It is a walk of persevering obedience and imitation of Christ (1 John 2:3-6 & Ephesians 5:1-2).

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]