

## Hebrews 11:5-6

This is the second story of great **faith/trust** toward God after **the great failure** of Adam and Eve to **trust** God.

Here is what we know from verse 5 about Enoch:

- **He was pleasing to God**
- **He was taken up (did not see death)**
  - Not a lot of info

But whatever the details are...

- We know that Enoch must have had great faith
  1. He is in this chapter
  2. **He pleased God** (v. 5) and **without faith it is impossible to do so** (v. 6)

Let's go hunting for more details—**Genesis 5:21-24**

- Not much more info than Hebrews 11
- **Enoch walked with God, then he was not...** (v. 24)

Let's see what we can glean from this

- The potent fact seems to be that **Enoch walked with God**
  - Mentioned twice (v. 22 and 24)
  - What is the faith lesson there

The first story of a **Life of Faith** (Abel) had to do with **worshipping God**

This second example of a **Life of Faith** has to do with **walking with God**

A divine order and progression

- **Abel:**       **Faith Worshiping**
- **Enoch:**      **Faith Walking**

The latter flows out of a commitment to the former

- **Walking with God** is the outflow and result of **worshipping God**
  - (And vice versa) The more we **walk** with Him the more we'll want to **worship** Him
- But the divine priority is worship—and then all else

Abel shows us **where** the life of faith **begins**—Enoch shows us **what** the life of faith **consists of**.

Enoch walked with God

- We can begin to connect with this idea because we use this sort of grammar all the time in Christianity
  - "How is your walk going? How long have you been... Is he still... Why isn't she..."

But what does it mean to walk with God?

- Why does it require faith/trust?
- What was Enoch's deal? Why was it so profound that he **walked with God**?

The term **walk** signifies a few things

- A voluntary act (as opposed to being dragged)
- A steady advance (as opposed to running or a start stop sort of thing)
- A progress in spiritual things (a continuous forward motion)

To **walk with God** means

- A life surrendered to God (voluntary)
- A life controlled by God (steady)
- A life lived for God (discipleship, progression)
  - All this denotes, requires, both facilitates and is predicated upon **intimacy**
  - Throughout Genesis walking **with or before God** denotes **ongoing intimacy** with God (3:8; 6:9; 17:1; 24:40; 48:15—Noah, Abraham, Isaac, etc.)

**Walking** with God **pleases** God (Heb. 11:5)—But here is **how** and **why**.

Walking with another suggest a mutual agreement of soul

- Amos 3:3
  - Do two walk together unless they have **agreed** to do so?

It is impossible to walk together unless there are several mutual agreements<sup>1</sup>:

1. **The place**
2. **The path**
3. **The pace**

1. **To walk together you have to agree on the place (or destination) to which you are going**

- Husbands and wives know that the path to Nordstrom and Lowes are not the same
  - You cannot walk together and go to different places
- **Enoch was heading in God's direction**
  - Are you?
    - God's direction is His glory. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
      - The things of His Kingdom
      - Things that are consistent with His character and plan

Speaking of heading to the right place/destination...

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from R. Kent Hughes, *Preaching the Word: Hebrews*, Vol. 2 (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1993), 77-8.

## Enoch was taken up (translated) (Hebrews 11:5)

- Definition: to carry across, bear up, to remove, to change from one place to another
- There are two ways to draw application from this
  1. The Rapture (**Going up**)
    - In the same way that Enoch was translated and did not experience physical death
      - A whole generation of believers will experience the same
      - 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (Cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)  
**51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,
  
      - 52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and **we will be changed.**
  
      - 53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.
    - Therefore 1 John 3:3  
 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
  2. Transcending (**Living up**)
    - Living for the heavenlies—above the drama of this world (light, love, truth)
      - Colossians 1:9-13
      - Therefore Colossians 3:1-3
        - Enoch's culture was just as perverse as ours (antediluvian)

## Should not see death

- Enoch was not to be overcome by death
- Let's think beyond physical death (though that was the case) to the spiritual reality for the Christian
- Enoch being taken up **without seeing death** pictures for us that the power of death had been broken in the life of the Christian!
  - **The wages of sin is death** (Romans 6:23)—but in Christ we have **eternal life** and **new life**
    1. Eternal Life
      - John 11:25-26  
**25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
  
      - 26** and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

## 2. New Life

- Romans 6:4

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might **walk in newness of life**.

### 2. To walk together you have to agree on **the path (or course) you will take to get there**

- You can be headed to the same place but take separate paths
  - But then you are not together. Fellowship is broken.
- To walk together you need to be heading to **the same place on the same path**
- **Enoch stayed on God's path**
  - Are you?
- Joshua 1:7
 

Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not **turn** from it to the **right** or to the **left**, so that you may have success wherever you go.
- 2 Kings 22:2 (Of Josiah)
 

He did **right** in the sight of the LORD and walked in all the way of his father David, nor did he **turn** aside to the **right** or to the **left**.
- Deuteronomy 5:32
 

So you shall observe to do just as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not **turn** aside to the **right** or to the **left**.
- Proverbs 4:26-27
 

Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established.  
Do not **turn** to the **right** nor to the **left**; turn your foot from evil.
- Paul was able to say (2 Timothy 4:7)
 

I have fought the good fight, I have finished **the course**, I have kept the faith
- How do we stay on **God's path**?
  - Psalm 119:105 (God's written word)
 

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.
  - Isaiah 30:21 (God's prophetic voice)
 

Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you **turn** to the **right** or to the **left**.

**The path will always be consistent with God's character**

**God is Light (1 John 1:5)**

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, **that God is Light**, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Therefore, walk in the light (Ephesians 5:8)  
for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; **walk as children of Light**

Jesus said in John 12:35  
he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.

### God is Love (1 John 4:8 and 16)

Therefore walk in love (Ephesians 5:1-3)  
**1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;  
**2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.  
**3** But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

### God is truth (1 John 5:20)

Therefore walk in the truth (2 John 4; 3 John 3)

### Place, path... pace

#### 3. To walk together you have to agree on **the pace (or speed)** at which you will travel

- Two must not only be headed to the **same place** on the **same path** but they must also be going at the **same pace**
- Enoch was in step with God
  - Are you?
  - Galatians 5:25 urges us to **keep in step with the Spirit**
- Not getting ahead, or lagging behind
- Consistency
  - **Walking with God** implies **consistency**
    - Which requires **diligence** and **perseverance** and **dedication**
  - Enoch walked with God for **300 years!!!**
    - This is a **Life of Faith** we can imitate
    - In fact, his name means **dedicated**

Speaking of consistency Hebrews 11:6<sup>b</sup>

- **God is a rewarder of those who seek Him**
- The idea is not a one time seeking, but a continual (lifestyle) of seeking (Cf. walking)

- The verb **seek** in the Greek text is in the **present tense (meaning a continuous action)**<sup>2</sup>
  - In other words, **God is a rewarder of those who are continually seek Him**
    - Some other translations bring this nuance out well:
      - NIV = **earnestly seek Him**
      - NLT = **sincerely seek Him**
      - NKJV = **diligently seek Him**

We are **disciples** of Jesus—we need to be asking the Spirit for **discipline**

- We need to cultivate relationship with God
  - It isn't too late to start!
- But Enoch wasn't always "**dedicated**" (**Genesis 5:21**) (65 years old)
  - When he started—he didn't look back!
    - Consistency!

Enoch's consistent walk with God produced communion and fellowship

- **He walked with God for 300 years!**
- If you head for the same **place** on the **same path** at the **same pace** for that long there is going to be intimacy!

And intimacy **pleases God**

- And blesses our lives

**He pleased God** (what a testimony!) (**Hebrews 11:6**)

- This may explain why our faith is so feeble and our walks so sloppy
  - We don't concern ourselves with pleasing God
- We insist that God please us
  - You exist for Him—not Him for you!
- God is not likely to answer our pleas while we are so unconcerned with what pleases Him
  - God always honors those who honor Him

Are we pleasing God by **trusting** him?

Are we pleasing God by walking with Him (**place, path, pace**)?

I know sometimes we feel like we need to be **taken up**, like Enoch was

- But remember: **Enoch pleased God – then He was taken up**

Adjust your life as needed today!

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<sup>2</sup> It would be helpful at this juncture to say something about the tenses of Greek verbs. In English, and in most other languages, the **tense of the verb mainly refers to the 'time'** of the action of the verb (present, past, or future time). In Greek, however, although time does bear upon the meaning of tense, the primary consideration of the tense of the verb is not time, but rather **the 'kind of action'** that the verb portrays. As in being a continuous action, or an action that happened in the past that has a present ongoing effect, or a simple action in the past which is completed, etc. When we say that the Greek verb **seek** (in Hebrew 11:6) is in the **present tense**, it means that it is an **action which is continuous**.