

ENOCH: THE MAN WHO WALKED WITH GOD

Genesis 5:18-24

INTRODUCTION

We all know the benefits of walking each day. There are many of them. It strengthens your heart; lowers disease risk; keeps weight in check; can help prevent dementia; and osteoporosis, too; tones your legs, buns – and tum; boosts your vitamin D levels; gives you energy; It makes you happy. Wow! Look at all the benefits of walking.

This morning I want to talk to you about walking, not about physical walking, but about spiritual walking with God. Walking with God each day has many more benefits than physical walking, and they are eternal benefits. We all need to learn to walk with God and to practice it. This morning the Holy Spirit wants encourage you to walk with God.

When we use the phrase “walking with God”, what does it mean? “Walking with God” is a figurative way of speaking about our relationship with God. “Walking with God” refers to our relationship with God. When we walk with someone what is going on? When two friends walk together, they are usually talking to each other and having enjoyable fellowship. My oldest daughter walks with one of her friends almost every night. They do it for exercise, but they do a lot of talking. In fact when they finish walking they continue to talk for the longest time. I never have figured out what women can talk about for so long. Fellowship is an important part of walking with someone. Fellowship is an important part of our walking with God.

Also when we walk with someone it means that we are going somewhere. When I was in the army I did a lot of walking (marching) with others and we had a specific destination we were going to. Walking with someone gives us opportunity to share our vision for things. I remember as a boy my father, who was a farmer, and I would walk together in the fields. He loved to just walk and view his fields. He would tell me what he wanted to do in this field and what he needed to do in another field. This also part of what it means to walk God. We walk together and He tells us what He wants to do in my life and what he needs to do.

God created us to walk with Him. The picture we see in Genesis 3 is God walking with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening in the Garden of Eden. We are created to have a close relationship, close communion with Him each day.

Does walking with God daily describe your relationship with God?

Several Old Testament saints are said to ‘walk with God.’ Noah walked with God (Gen 6:9); Abraham walked before God (Gen 24:40); Isaac walked with God

(Gen 48:15); Jacob walked with God; David walked with God (Psalm 116:9), Hezekiah walked with God (II Kings 20:3). The Holy Spirit wants you and me to see our relationship with God as walking with Him.

We have a great example of a person who walked with God and we can examine what the Bible says about him to help us understand more fully what is involved in walking with God. That person is Enoch. Genesis 5 gives us a list of 10 generations from Adam to Noah through the Seth. Enoch is the 7th generation. All but three of these heads of their clad are said to have lived over 900 years each. Wow! That is amazing. Enoch only lived 365 years for something special happened to him. Genesis 5:24 (NIV) tells us, **“Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.”**

WALK WITH GOD BY FAITH

The first thing we see about Enoch’s walk with God is that he walked by faith. The 2011 NIV adds “faithfully.” It says, **“Enoch walked faithfully with God.”** In Hebrews 11:5 it says it explicitly that Enoch walked by faith.

Heb 11:5-6 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Enoch’s walk with God pleased God for it was by faith. What was Enoch’s faith? It was faith in the God who created all things. It was faith in God’s promise of a coming Redeemer. Remember that back in Genesis 3:15 God was speaking to Satan He promised a coming Redeemer. **“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”** This is the first announcement of the Gospel. God’s promise of a Redeemer was made in the garden. And I believe that the family heads in the line of Seth passed this promise down to their descendants. Enoch believed the promise. He believed that God exists and that He would honor that promise.

As you walk with God each day be reminded of all the promises of God to you in Christ and walk by faith in them. Be aware of God’s presence in your daily routines and walk by faith. Be like David who said, **“I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.”** Psa 16:8 NKJV

Your walk with God is based on your faith that God is with you and walking with you in life and this is based on your faith in God’s promise to never leave or forsake you.

The Holy Spirit wants to encourage you to diligently see you relationship with God as walk with Him by faith in His promises and presence.

WALK WITH GOD WITH PERSEVERANCE

The next thing we can learn about Enoch's walk with God is that he persevered in his faithful walk even though the days were evil.

We know that Enoch lived in a godless time among godless people, yet he walked with God. Enoch walked with God in spite of the godless culture he lived in. Think about the people around Enoch. He lived in the days when the descendants of Cain were the dominant people. The descendants of Cain were not followers of God. They were the opposite.

Chapter 4 of Genesis describes the line of Cain as violent, self-centered, and living in spiritual darkness. The 7th generation from Adam in the line of Cain was Lamech. Lamech boasted to his wives of his violence. Listen to 4:23-24

Gen 4:23-24 NIV Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. (24) If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times."

In just three more generations the earth was filled with such evil that God would destroy it by a flood. In the days of Noah God described the situation as hopeless.

Gen 6:5 NIV The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

Now this is not to say that the line of Cain were not intelligent or creative people. In many ways they were highly industrious, cultured, and intelligent, maybe more so than those in the line of Seth. The Bible says that they became the founders of cattle-raisers and sheep-herders; they were the founders of metal workers and the arts; they were founders of music and makers of musical instruments. They were cultured, but they were walking in darkness, opposed to God and all his ways. They were more interested in making a name for themselves, than in making themselves known to God. They were more interested in getting ahead of others, than in pointing others to the true God.

Are the days we live in today much different from the days of Enoch? No, the typical American lives as if God didn't exist. We live in a violent age. The culture we live in is more interested in making a name for ourselves rather making ourselves known to God. Our culture is more interested in getting ahead of others, than in pointing others to the true God. Our culture is walking in darkness.

Enoch persevered in his walk with God in spite of his godless environment. You are encouraged to persevere in your walk with God in spite of the age in which you live.

We live in the midst of a “crooked and perverse generation,” but we are called to walk with God and be lights in the world, being steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Like Enoch you are called to persevere in your walk with God and be faithful in spite of how our culture is going.

WALK WITH GOD WITH A MESSAGE FOR OTHERS

Another lesson we can learn about Enoch’s walk is found in the book of Jude. Here we see God gave Enoch a message to share as he was walking with God. Enoch was faithful in proclaiming God’s message to his neighbors. Listen to Jude:

Jud 1:14-15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, (15) 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."

(Verse 15 is known as the ‘ungodly’ verse. The word ‘ungodly’ is mentioned four times in one verse.)

Enoch’s message was not popular. Indeed it was a message of judgment. But the message was designed to turn people to God. It was a message telling His neighbors what was on God’s mind.

God has given you and me a message to give to our nation. It is a message of hope and good news as well as a message of judgment. Our message is that Jesus has come, not to condemn us, but to save us from the wrath of God. He has done all that is needed to deliver you from the evil of your culture and from your personal sin. Jesus invites whosoever-will may come to Him and the one who comes to Him He will in no wise cast out. But if you refuse to come, the wrath of God abides upon you. God’s judgment is sure.

Enoch’s walk with God enabled him to be bold in proclaiming God’s message to an ungodly society. Your walk with God should do the same for you.

THE END RESULTS OF ENOCH’S WALK

Finally, let me say a word about how Enoch’s life ended. It says that **“he was not for God took him.”** It seems that Enoch did not die physically, like most of us will, but he was translated directly into heaven by the power of God. God

was pleased to interfere in a special way on Enoch's behalf, and so He suddenly removed him from this world without the pains of death, and took him to that blessed place where all the saints are waiting in joyful expectation for the end of all things, where sin and pain and sorrow are no more.

Only Elijah had a similar experience. The Bible says that a fiery chariot came to get Elijah and he was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind implying that he didn't die. God chose to take Enoch dramatically and supernaturally out of the ungodly society in which he lived.

I wonder why God chose to do this. No doubt, there are several reasons.

Someone was telling the story of Enoch to a little girl one time. She asked, "Why did God take him?" The one telling the story said, "God and Enoch would take long walks together every day, because they loved each other so much. One day they had been walking for so long that it was getting dark so God said to Enoch, "Let me take you to my house, for yours is too far away. Then God took him home with Him."

Here are some more possibilities.

It may have been done to convince a hard-hearted, unbelieving world that God does observe the lives of men and women and He will honor those who walk with Him by faith. God knows your faith and faithfulness and you will be rewarded accordingly.

It may have been done to encourage God's children who live in difficult times that there is a heaven and a life to come, that there is a reward for the righteous, no matter what the world may say or believe. It says to us, "Oh, cast not away your confidence, you that walk with God. It is but a little season and He that shall come will come and take you to an everlasting rest."

I believe also that the experience of Enoch of going directly into the presence of God without experiencing death is a prototype of what will happen when Jesus returns. One day Jesus is coming and all those who are living and who believe in Him will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, without experiencing death, and will be with the Lord forever according to I Thessalonians 4:15-18.

1Th 4:15-18 NIV According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in

the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (18) Therefore encourage one another with these words.

So take comfort all of you are walking with God. One day we will be taken out of this evil world into the very presence of Jesus Christ. This is our hope.

CONCLUSION

Examining the life of Enoch helps us to view our relationship with God as walking with Him and what pleases God. It is a daily walk. It is a walk of faith. It is a persevering walk. It is a walk that tells people what's on God's mind.

Also we see that what we have to look forward to is the coming of our Lord to judge the wicked, but more importantly to take us to be with him forever.

Now, what shall we say to this? Ask yourself, "Am I walking with God today?" Am I the type of person who will walk with God in spite of what people around are doing? Am I the type of person willing to walk strictly by faith in God's promises and diligently seek His presence each day? Am I the type of person who treasures fellowship with God to be my greatest treasure? Am I the type of person will be faithful to God's message no matter the personal cost to me?

Have you started your walk with God? If not, you can by coming to Jesus Christ and putting your trust in Him. Confess your need for Him to be your Savior, your Guide in life, your Lord. Give your life to Jesus.

Have you been walking with God for a long time, but your walk has grown flat, routine, without much joy? Come back to Him and confess you waywardness and commit yourself to God as you Lord, Guide, and Companion in life.

God created us to walk with Him. Just do it.

Amen? Amen!