

# “Walking By Faith”

January 17th, 2021 | Pastor Al Brice

“Violence brings only temporary victories; violence, by creating more social problems than it solves, never brings permanent peace. Always avoid violence. If you succumb to the temptation of using violence in your struggle, unborn generations will be the recipients of a long and desolate night of bitterness and your chief legacy to the future will be an endless reign of meaningless chaos.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## **Matthew 26:51-52 (NKJV)**

“And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 52 But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Words are like a sword, words either wound, hurt, tear down, promote violence, condemn, or destroy. Words can also heal, build up, bring comfort, and bring peace.”

## **Proverbs 12:18 (TPT)**

“Reckless words are like the thrusts of a sword, cutting remarks meant to stab and to hurt. But the words of the wise soothe and heal.”

Walking by faith is not something we do when we just pray for things that we need or show up for church. Walking by faith is a every second, minute, hour, daily “LIFESTYLE” that is lived and demonstrated in my home, at work, at school, on social media, at church, and everywhere I go and in everything I do and say. It is walking in habitual fellowship with God every minute of my life on this earth and total obedience to His Word. Christianity is who I am, it is how I act, what I say, and what I do as a son or daughter of God for the Kingdom of God.

## **Hebrews 11:5-6 (AMPC)**

“Because of faith Enoch was caught up and transferred to heaven, so that he did not have a glimpse of death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For even before he was taken to heaven, he received testimony [still on record] that he had pleased and been satisfactory to God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out].”

## **Genesis 5:21-24 (AMPC)**

“When Enoch was 65 years old, Methuselah was born. 22 Enoch walked [in habitual fellowship] with God after the birth of Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 And Enoch walked [in habitual fellowship] with God; and he was not, for God took him [home with Him].”

I. How did Enoch please God? He walked in habitual fellowship with God and he walked and lived by faith.

## **2 Corinthians 5:7 (AMPC)**

“For we walk by faith [ we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or belief respecting man’s relationship to God and divine things, with trust and holy fervor; thus we walk] not by sight or appearance.”

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A. It takes faith to walk with God because we are walking with an invisible God, Who lives in us if we're born again and it is only by faith that we can please Him in this daily walk.

1. Where does this faith, that is pleasing to God, come from?

First when you are born again.

**Romans 12:3 (NKJV)**

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

- Measure: a limited measure, a measure to be born again.

God expects our faith to grow continually.

**2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NKJV)**

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.”

How does our faith grow exceedingly?

**Romans 10:17 (NKJV)**

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

B. So, back to Enoch who pleased God because he walked with God by faith. Let's reverse this, if you're not walking with God, by faith, you're not pleasing God. The opposite of walking in faith is to walk by the flesh and walking in sin, which is displeasing to God. We can never justify our sin or our conduct in the flesh, to God; the only response to our behavior of operating in the flesh is repentance and stop it.

**Titus 2:11-14 (NLT)**

“For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. 12 And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, 13 while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. 14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.”

C. How do we walk, concerning the New Covenant, as born again believers to please God and what kind of walking is displeasing to God?

**Galatians 5:13-17 (AMPC)**

“For you, brethren, were [indeed] called to freedom; only [do not let your] freedom be an incentive to your flesh and an opportunity or excuse [for selfishness], but through love you should serve one another. 14 For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is complied with in the one precept, You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. 15 But if you bite and devour one another [in partisan strife], be careful that you [and your whole fellowship] are not consumed by one another. 16 But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and

desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). 17 For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.”

### **Galatians 5:25-26 (AMPC)**

“If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. [If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.] 26 Let us not become vainglorious and self-conceited, competitive and challenging and provoking and irritating to one another, envying and being jealous of one another.”

### **Romans 8:5-8 (AMPC)**

“For those who are according to the flesh and are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit and are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit. 6 Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever]. 7 [That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God’s Law; indeed it cannot. 8 So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.”

D. Is it possible for a local church congregation to begin to live by the flesh, become carnal (fleshy) Christians, and become displeasing to God and grieve the Holy Spirit?

### **1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (AMPC)**

“However, brethren, I could not talk to you as to spiritual [men], but as to nonspiritual [men of the flesh, in whom the carnal nature predominates], as to mere infants [in the new life] in Christ [unable to talk yet!] 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not yet strong enough [to be ready for it]; but even yet you are not strong enough [to be ready for it], 3 for you are still [unspiritual, having the nature] of the flesh [under the control of ordinary impulses]. For as long as [there are] envying and jealousy and wrangling (disputes and arguments) and factions (a small, organized dissenting group within a larger one, especially in politics) among you, are you not unspiritual and of the flesh, behaving yourselves after a human standard and like mere (unchanged) men?”

II. What was Enoch’s motivation to walk with God, by faith, when all of society and the culture was going in a totally different direction?

A. His motivation was the word of the Lord given to him about the coming judgment of God upon the earth.

1. Methuselah basically means, when he dies, God’s judgment and the end will happen in the earth. It came in Noah’s day after Methuselah died.

2. What about our warning?

### **2 Peter 3:3-13 (AMPC)**

“To begin with, you must know and understand this, that scoffers (mockers) will come in the last days with scoffing, [people who] walk after their own fleshly desires 4 And say, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the forefathers fell asleep, all things have continued

exactly as they did from the beginning of creation. 5 For they willfully overlook and forget this [fact], that the heavens [came into] existence long ago by the word of God, and the earth also which was formed out of water and by means of water, 6 Through which the world that then [existed] was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been stored up (reserved) for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly people. 8 Nevertheless, do not let this one fact escape you, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will vanish (pass away) with a thunderous crash, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are thus in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought [each of] you to be [in the meanwhile] in consecrated and holy behavior and devout and godly qualities, 12 While you wait and earnestly long for (expect and hasten) the coming of the day of God by reason of which the flaming heavens will be dissolved, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will flare and melt with fire? 13 But we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise, in which righteousness (uprightness, freedom from sin, and right standing with God) is to abide."

3. A warning to all Christians who believe that you live anyway you want to live and because of the grace of God, you will be okay living in the flesh.

### **Revelation 3:2-6 (AMPC)**

"Rouse yourselves and keep awake, and strengthen and invigorate what remains and is on the point of dying; for I have not found a thing that you have done [any work of yours] meeting the requirements of My God or perfect in His sight. 3 So call to mind the lessons you received and heard; continually lay them to heart and obey them, and repent. In case you will not rouse yourselves and keep awake and watch, I will come upon you like a thief, and you will not know or suspect at what hour I will come. 4 Yet you still have a few [persons'] names in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes, and they shall walk with Me in white, because they are worthy and deserving. 5 Thus shall he who conquers (is victorious) be clad in white garments, and I will not erase or blot out his name from the Book of Life; I will acknowledge him [as Mine] and I will confess his name openly before My Father and before His angels. 6 He who is able to hear, let him listen to and heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches)."