

imPOSSIBLE – Enoch and Walking Faith

5/17/20

Hebrews 11:5-6 | Genesis 5:21-24

Sunday AM

Riddle: What do you apply multiple times every day, thru-out your day, in nearly every phase of your life – and yet you never once think about using it?

Hint: You applied it when you got into your car today – turned on a light or drank from the faucet... You used it when you opened your Bible to hear from God?

What am I speaking of... **FAITH!** But what exactly is faith? The dictionary defines faith as – *complete trust or hope in someone or something*, yet according to the writer of Hebrews that's incomplete as – *Faith is the assurance of things we hope for and the conviction of things we cannot yet see.* Hebrews 11:1

Faith is when our minds believe/trust in someone or something even though we might not have all of the information to see it – and even though we can't see it, we know it is true and that it'll come thru for us.

Ultimately, it is the **OBJECT** of our faith that matters most. As it pertains to God, faith is believing in God not b/c we see Him but b/c we can see the evidence of God. **Much like the wind, we can't see it, but we can see the effects of it – so we know it's real.**

But there's more – as we will see today in Hebrews 11:6 – *w/out faith it is impossible to please God.*

Meaning – faith is the essential ingredient to knowing and following God. It's believing in God not b/c we see Him, but b/c we see the evidence of God all around us – helping us to understand that we can trust Him b/c we know He present and capable to handle anything.

Which brings us to our text and *faith hero* for today. If you have your Bible, turn to **Hebrews 11:5-6** and **Genesis 5:21-24**. Last week, we started a series on the great men/women of faith to learn from them about how to live w/ a faith that matters/makes a difference. Today, I want to introduce you to one of the greatest men of faith in history – His name was **Enoch**. Enoch is mentioned in just 8 verses in Scripture – Genesis 5, Hebrews 11, and in Jude – yet much can be learned about His life/faith in these passages.

Enoch lived 65 yrs, and became the father of Methuselah. Then Enoch walked w/ God 300 yrs after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons/daughters. So, all the days of Enoch were 365 yrs. Enoch walked w/ God; and he was not, for God took him. Genesis 5:21-24

By faith Enoch was taken up so he would not see death; and he was not found b/c God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. And w/out faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:5-6

While the Biblical record on Enoch is limited – this doesn't mean its light. In these few verses on his life, we find a profound teaching about a faith that walks –that is, *a faith that pleases God is the result of a walk w/ God based on a true belief in God's existence.*

Today, I want to look at 3 aspects of Enoch's faith I believe are critical in helping us to walk in faith.

I True Faith **BELIEVES** in God

True faith believes God **IS** – and b/c He IS – God can be trusted. But this requires faith in what we can't see!

WHY – It’s right here in vs. 6 – *b/c w/out faith, it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God.* It’s impossible to *know* God, *experience* God, or *walk* w/ God unless we embrace that He IS! *Faith is the essential ingredient.*

I put my faith in Christ when I was 12, but at 18, while attending Bible College, I experienced a *crisis of belief*. This crisis centered around (2) things: *Did God really exist?* And if so, then *how could he be known?*

IOW – **Do I believe God IS?** If yes; then is Jesus the only way to know Him? If God ISN’T, then nothing really matters and there’s no such thing as good/evil or right/wrong; but if He IS – then everything matters.

This raises the question of finding credible evidence to either prove/disprove the existence of God. The simple truth is there is ample evidence for God’s existence, just not always the kind of scientific, empirical evidence some people are wanting.

Nonetheless, I could offer you the **Cosmological** or **Causation** argument that says b/c there’s a universe, something beyond itself had to have caused it b/c *something cannot come from nothing.* (**watchmaker**)

I call this the **Uncaused Cause** argument. It goes like this. No matter how far you go back w/ cause/effect, eventually you’ll come to the cul-de-sac of an **uncaused cause**. At this point, you have to apply faith. Either you believe something came from nothing or some being was the cause of what came into existence. Call it intelligent design or what you may. I call it God!

Next is the **teleological** or **design/order** argument that says the compelling evidence of design, order, and complexity prove there had to be a designer/creator.

Did you know – science has identified 75 finely tuned aspects of our universe which if not present or “out of tune” – life couldn’t exist or survive. (Here are 4)

- If the earth were 1° closer to the sun – we’d fry! If we were 1° further – we’d freeze!
- If the moon was any closer/larger, the tides would destroy the coastlines. If any smaller/further away, the oceans would die from a lack of nutrient movement.
- If gravity was any stronger, earth would retain too much ammonia/methane gas. If any weaker, the atmosphere would lose too much water.
- If the earth’s crust were any thicker, it’d absorb too much oxygen. If it was any thinner; the volcanic and tectonic activity would make life impossible.

The probability of these 75 factors occurring anywhere in the universe is 12^{125} . If that’s not enough – a 100 bil. other things had to happen for these 75 aspects to exist!

The conditions for life on earth demand so many bil. of minute interrelated circumstances appearing simultaneously, in the same infinitesimal moment, that such a prospect becomes beyond belief and beyond possibility w/out a designer. *A.K. Morrison*

Then there’s the non-scientific, **rational** arguments which aid in proving the existence of God.

Let me make this simple – You can’t put love, justice, or anger in a test tube to prove they exist, yet no sensible persons would ever doubt their existence. Likewise, science can no more prove the existence of Napoleon or any other person for that matter, b/c in order for something to be proven by science, it must be *observable, testable, and repeatable*. Yet we can’t repeat Napoleon, or Washington, or Jesus – nor any event surrounding their lives.

The bottomline is neither science nor reason can fully prove/disproved God, yet they can provide plausible and overwhelming evidence for master creator.

Point – Ultimately, a person’s belief about God requires faith. Likewise, it requires just as much faith to not believe. Enoch teaches us that to **know** God and to **walk** w/ Him requires we believe He IS!

II True Faith **WALKS** with God

One could easily argue that Enoch is the one man who expressed the greatest measure of faith in history.

How does a person walk w/ God when he can’t see God, hear God, lives in a fallen, corrupt, sinful society, and has neither the cross or the indwelling of the H.S. to guide him? Enoch did.

Now, w/out a doubt, God’s ultimate desire for His creation has always been for us to know Him and walk w/ Him. If you remember, before the Fall, Adam/Eve **walked** w/ God in the Garden of Eden, but as a result of the Fall, God had to exit them from the Garden so they wouldn’t be able to live forever in a sinful condition by partaking of the Tree of Life. As a result, mankind’s intimacy/walk was negatively interrupted. So, from the time of Adam to Enoch, mankind slipped deeper into a state of sinful rebellion. When Enoch arrived onto the scene, most of humanity was living oblivious to God w/out the indwelling H.S.

Yet apparently, b/c of faith in God – that God IS, Enoch saw the failure of humanity in trying to live in independence from God and chose to seek God.

Enoch's daily walk was a walk of faith, a walk of fellowship w/ God. What the Scriptures are trying to say to us is this: If Enoch could live and walk w/ God by faith in the midst of his sinful generation, we should be able to follow his example b/c the human race is the same and God is the same! Tozer

IOW – Enoch shows us that we have no excuse for dwelling in the cultural sewers of this world when we can have an intimate walk w/ God. Even better, unlike Enoch, we have the indwelling H.S. to help us.

So, how does a person walk w/ God as Enoch did?

- We must walk **CONFIDENTLY** in God – He IS!
- We must walk **HUMBLY** before God – we’re not
- We must walk **OBEDIENTLY** under God’s lead
- We must walk **PATIENTLY** in the Spirit

You are headed in the right direction when you determine in your heart to walk w/ God!

III True Faith seeks to **PLEASE** God

True faith believes God – seeks to walk w/ God – and in so doing, pleases God. This is the ambition of true faith – it seeks to put a smile on God’s face. I spoke of this in our last series – **let me refresh your memory**.

I think the clearest picture of this is found in Paul’s prayer to the Colossians in **Colossians 1:9-12**.

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you w/ the knowledge of his will thru all the wisdom/understanding that the Spirit gives, **that you may walk worthy of the Lord and please him in every way**: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened w/ all power according to his glorious might so you may have great endurance/patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light...*

Paul’s prayer highlights the spiritual ambition/aim we should all crave/desire – that ***we walk worthy of the Lord that we might please Him in every way***.

worthy (*axios*) to balance – practice what you preach.

Paul calls Christians to live a life that'd bring honor to God b/c it possesses a balance b/w what they say/do. **Meaning – a worthy walk always lives what it believes.** It walks the walk and talks the talk. There's balance b/w our words and our actions.

pleasing (*areskiea*) one whose ambition is to satisfy God's heart. Not as a means to gain God's favor, but to show Him our gratitude for His favor – it means **to put a smile on God's face.**

Paul then outlines the (6) things that reveals the ONE thing that pleases God!

- **FRUITFUL** Ministry – *bearing fruit...*
- **MATURING** Intimacy – *growing in knowledge...*
- **STRENGTHENING** Conviction – *w/ power...*
- **ENDURING** Fortitude – *w/ endurance...*
- **PATIENT** Concern – *and patience...*
- **GRATEFUL** Joy – *giving joyful thanks...*

A life that pleases God is a life that abides and acts only under the influence of the H.S.

I am the vine and you are the branches; if any man abides in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; but apart from Me, you can do nothing. John 15:5

In Enoch, we find a man whose faith in God led him to walk daily w/ God w/ the sole desire to please God and put a smile on his face. The result of such faith, led God to transition his life into eternity w/out him having to experience death.

This reminds me of Vance Havner's account of how Enoch entering heaven. He said, "One day, Enoch was walking w/ God ,and it was getting late in the day. At that point, God looked at Enoch and said, 'Enoch, we're much closer to my house than we are to yours; why don't you just come on home w/ me.'" And he did. In one step, Enoch walked from this life into eternal life... and he never looked back!