

- *Series Intro: Intimacy After God's Own Heart*

Acts 13:22

And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.

TESTIMONY of intimacy new years resolution and of looking this verse wrong.

Psalm 63:1 (ESV)

1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 9:10 (ESV)

10 And those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

Psalm 34:4,10 (ESV)

4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
10 The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Psalm 119:10 (ESV)

10 With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!

Psalm 27:4 (ESV)

4 One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.

Sermon Intro: **Taken by God**

Setting up the Text:

Have people stand up and read it together. FOCUS ON ASPECT

We are going to read a text that is HIGHLY RELATIONAL but in the middle of it is something that we have to do... we must not fall into the religious trap of duty of just doing what is necessary or a checklist.

Hebrews 11:5-6

5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found,

because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. **6** And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

The meaning of Enoch's name and his life helped us develop the theme for this message:

1. **Dedicate yourself to walk in such close fellowship with God that you are taken by Him**

Illustration: Walking with Aria

1. Once a month dates: totally focused on her, giving her words, asking her questions
2. But I want more so I ask her to go to the store with me
3. Hang out with her at the house
4. The more I do this, the more I fall in love with her and the more I want to take her up.

1. This text is about a relationship. It describes the intimate relationship that can exist between God and Man, shown by Enoch.

• HOW TO LIVE OUT THE MESSAGE OF ENOCH

1. **Living in Faith** - Dedicate yourself to walk in such close fellowship with God that you are taken by Him

1. **Ben**: DEFINE FAITH

1. Fully trusting God in thought and action when the outcome is unseen

2. **Peter**: BY FAITH

1. **Explanation**: *5 By faith Enoch was taken up*

1. The word that starts out this phrase is **πίστευ**: translated in most of your Bibles as "By Faith". the most common translation for this word is actually "In Faith"
2. Let's read the phrase with that in mind "In faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death"
3. *"Enoch lived IN FAITH, in such a way that he was taken up by God"*
4. Enoch lived in a CLIMATE of Faith.

1. **Illustration**: January in Northern Illinois

1. Our climate is COLD

1. Dictates what you do
2. How you dress

3. What your house needs
4. Dress your kids
5. Drive
2. Our climate of Midwest winter invades our life completely.
2. When you live in a climate of faith, it affects every aspect of your life. Its completely invasive
5. Is your faith invasive of every aspect of your life? It was for Enoch

1. EXPLAIN JASHER

2. Jasher 3:2 *"And the soul of Enoch was wrapped up in the instruction of the Lord"*

1. Enoch was alive during the same time as Adam
2. He did not have the scriptures like we do, but he had INTIMACY WITH GOD

1. Jasher 3:17-19

- *17 And it was in the year of Adam's death which was the two hundred and forty-third year of the reign of Enoch, in that time Enoch resolved to separate himself from the sons of men and to secret himself as at first in order to serve the Lord.*

18 And Enoch did so, but did not entirely secret himself from them, but kept away from the sons of men three days and then went to them for one day. 19 And during the three days that he was in his chamber, he prayed to, and praised the Lord his God, and the day on which he went and appeared to his subjects he taught them the ways of the Lord, and all they asked him about the Lord he told them.

1. Enoch, in faith surrounded himself with the presence and intimacy with God ,wrapped up in it, that he and others were now reaping the benefits. If you read on in Jasher 3 the whole story is centered around droves of people coming to him because of the authority and truth he spoke. It was described to be like speaking with God.

2. 2 Peter 1:3

1. *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence*

3. **Application:** the church does not live this way, not today. There are too many others climates we are living in. For years I found myself living in the climate of fear of man. What do people think of me, what will this person think if I do this. Its wicked. How about a climate of success? Every decision is based off the next best opportunity. The next pay raise, the next rung on the corporate ladder the next better house better car. Success can affect every area of your life. If we are to have a walk like Enoch, only faith can be our climate.

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- 1. **Ben:** Taken Up

1. Enoch must have had a revelation of the resurrection from walking with God. We must believe in the resurrection power of God in our lives. V19 Abraham believed God would raise Isaac

2. Do you believe that other people can be resurrected around you or are you losing hope or being faithless AND are you believing it for yourself too?
3. Ian and Hannah
 1. Engaged, fellowship every day, every thought and action is in consideration of each other. But have not been taken yet. Even her name changes
 2. We can experience being taken by God as much as possible now. Like Ian and Hannah. But reality is that we will one day we will be fully "taken" by him - 1 Cor. 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.
 3. ~~ABRAHAM changed name, transformed Gen 17:1-5~~

2. **Blinded to Death** - *Dedicate yourself to walk in such close fellowship with God that you are taken by Him*

1. **Ben**: Gen 5:21-24
 1. WALKING - key word - CONFIRMS IT TWICE - connects back to the garden - because Enoch is doing the opposite of Adam & Eve and is choosing to walk with the LORD that God decides not to have him taste the same death that Adam & Eve had to experience
 2. Shows that death is more about separation from God rather than our bodies ceasing to work anymore.
 3. Reference ROMANS 6 - Don't choose death / sin / separation but instead choose life and fellowship with God.
2. **Peter**: Live BLINDED to DEATH
 1. **Explanation**: *so that he should not see death*
 2. Enoch lived with so much Faith he did not see death.
 1. In Jasher 3:23 it says that an angel told him he was needed to rule over the sons of God since he was so faithful with the sons of men
 2. Enoch did not physically see death, he left in a much similar fashion to Elijah.
 1. As Pastor Ben taught us, we may not see that fulfillment until the day of the Lord. We may actually die here on earth. But we're here to tell you there is a present reality we must walk to be dedicated to walking with God.
 3. But how can you live - BLINDED to death - NOT SEEING DEATH
 4. To live blinded to death, is to live in such a climate of faith that you no longer see the threat of death for you - because your FAITH is in the resurrection

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- 1. **Illustration:** Wilder and Bodi jumping off the stairs
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Because Christ has conquered death, and if you believe that and live it with faith, you must be BLINDED to DEATH, because DEATH does not determine any of our actions or thoughts, ONLY FAITH does.

1. Christ lived this by enduring the cross for the joy set before him, the resurrection, that was his faith
2. Hebrews 12:2
 1. *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*
3. Righteous Men for generations have followed in Christ's footsteps.
4. Missionaries
 1. Stanley Albert Dale
 1. Martyred in Indonesia
 2. Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Ed McCully, Peter Fleming, and Roger Youderian
 1. Killed in Ecuador
 3. John Chau - 2018
 1. Martyred on an obscure island in the Indian Ocean
5. **Application:** Do you live blinded to death like these men did?
 1. How can you live blinded to death if you're still bound by. fear of finances? Fear of men? Fear of sickness(?)
 2. Is your faith in the stairs or the one who promises He'll catch you?
 3. Every time the nations is stirred in our church I am faced with this question. And every time the thought of harm befalling my wife and kids because of the gospel makes me sick. Are you so blind to death that the worst thing you can imagine would not shake your faith?
6. **Not Being Found** -- ASSUMES THAT PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR HIM - *Dedicate yourself to walk in such close fellowship with God that you are taken by Him*
 1. **Peter** **Explanation:** *and he was not found,*
 2. 2 Corinthians 5:16-18
 1. *16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;*

3. If you are walking with God so closely that you are taken by Him, the old you would be nowhere to be found.
4. The text says "so that he was not found" - there was NO TRACE of him
5. There was a moment when Enoch WAS on earth, and then he was taken up and was NO MORE.
6. This is a picture of the death of the old man that happens with we are taken up by God in salvation.

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1. **Ben:** 2 Cor 3:18 / Enoch 106

1. 2 Cor. 3:18 Glory to glory. Transforming us.
2. Enoch 106:7 So I am beseeching you now, begging you in order that

• you may go to his (grand)father Enoch, our father, and learn from him the truth, for his dwelling place is among the angels."

1. ~~Strange son -- Noah:~~
2. Matt and Chelsea is a living an example of this message
3. Larry's testimony
4. Are you being transformed from glory to glory? Do people that knew your past (even a year ago) not recognize you?

5. Please God - Dedicate yourself to walk in such close fellowship with God that you are taken by Him

1. **Peter:**

2. **Explanation: *Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him***

1. Before he was taken up, he had to have lived a life worthy of that result. The Lord does not just TAKE UP anybody, the scriptures record Enoch and Elijah and Jesus after his resurrection.
 1. Enoch was taken up because his walk of Faith pleased God
 2. His faith empowered him to TRULY please God, and that is why he was taken up.
2. Gen 5
3. **21** *When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with God[b] after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not,[c] for God took him.*
4. In Gen 5:21-24 we see a phrase repeated here, the ESV says "ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD" the NIV says "Enoch walked FAITHFULLY with GOD"
5. From the Word alone this is about all we get about Enoch about his life. No list of accomplishments, or accolades, no status or

leadership mentioned, no riches or possessions. ONLY THAT HE WALKED WITH GOD and that he was COMMENDED for pleasing Him.

6. If all that is said of Me when I die is that I WALKED WITH GOD/ I PLEASED GOD, WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO ACHIEVE? BEING PLEASING to GOD is everything, and as the writer of Hebrews says, without faith, it is impossible to achieve without FAITH

1. **Ben:**

1. Desire & Deed
2. Phil 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
3. WILL = to desire to have or experience something—‘to desire, to want, to wish.’
4. WORK = to cause a state to be—‘to cause to be, to make to be, to make, to result in, to bring upon, to bring about
5. TESTIMONY this week. SHOULD LOOK UP THE WORD WILL AND WORK
6. IT IS SO GOOD TO BE IN THE WORD OF GOD - IT IS THE BEST THING - IT IS REFRESHING TO MY SOUL
7. Pray God will give you the WILL (the desire) and the WORK for his good pleasure.
8. Jay and Heather living in a climate of faith. Praying for joy in the midst of crap.

1. **Draw Near** - *Dedicate yourself to walk in such close fellowship with God that you are taken by Him*

1. **Peter:** He Exists
2. **Explanation:** *for whoever would draw near to God must believe [have faith - same word] that he exists*

• **and that he rewards those who seek him.**

1. The FINAL way we do this, the final way we dedicate ourselves to walk with God, is by drawing near.
 1. How do you draw near?
 1. Drawing Near: προσέρχομαι/**proserchomai** : **draw near**
 1. Drawing Near is to be in right standing with Him/ blameless / repentance
 1. Leviticus 21:18-23 : no one with a blemish may draw near / the priests must be CLEAN
 2. Isaiah 6 : afraid to draw near because he has unclean lips / Isaiah must be purified

3. Hebrews 4:14-16 - only through Jesus Christ can we become blameless to draw near to him

- *4 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, [a] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

1. He exists

1. Believing he exists is NOT just believing that there is a God. Its not an ethereal view that theres something bigger than all of us
2. Believing He Exists is FAITH in the I AM
 1. Believe: same ROOT OF FAITH
 2. Exists: eimi - I AM (John 8:58)
3. We must have complete faith, singular faith alone in the I AM, creator of heaven and earth, Savior of the World

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1. **Ben**: Rewards ---- HE REWARDS WITH HIMSELF

2. Not only he exists but he has PERFECT character - belief in the chair and trust in the character of the chair will hold you up (the reward).

1. Parable of the tenants - Luke 19:20-27
2. God exposes his wrong belief and shows that even his wrong belief is not what he truly believed. Exposed his wickedness and selfishness.
3. You can't just approach the Lord with belief but it needs to be correct belief. We need to be humble enough to change our belief about HIM.
 1. Thinking you need to forgive God for something is wrong belief.
 2. He wants bad things for me.
 3. That He won't use us.
 4. That he is not enough to give me wisdom on what I should I do or how I should lead my family.

4. Woman at the well. John 4 "if you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink', you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

5. Jonah - I KNEW YOU WERE... "for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster"

6. Hosea 4:6 (ESV)

- 6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me.

And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Hosea 5:15–6:3 (ESV)

15 I will return again to my place,
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face,
and in their distress earnestly seek me.

6 “Come, let us return to the LORD;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

2 After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

3 Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth.”

1. ~~Why Marriage only works with the redemption of each and are living with the character of God~~
 1. ~~If you believe the chair exists and then you trust in the character of the chair and sit down and it breaks and stabs you in the leg...that doesn't work...~~
 2. ~~Rich and Tracy?~~
2. Are you actively seeking / asking to know the character of God or are you just reading the word to check it off?

Closing: Masi