

The Faith of Enoch

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[0 : 0 0] We're going to go back to chapter 11 and continue in Hebrews chapter 11. This will be the third Wednesday in this chapter.

And doing a little bit of a study on faith. And the first time we got on this, we looked at it, I call it the properties of faith.

The idea was just learning a few simple things about faith before we ever dove into the passage and the chapter and the examples. And we saw that faith is substance.

Like it's something, spiritually speaking I suppose, you can't hold it in your hands or fill a bottle with it. But it's something that God gifts to us. He gifts it to men.

And he does it to be exercised, to be used. It's not to be stored. It's not to be displayed. But it's to be exercised. And we saw that that faith can grow. And as it grows, it can become stronger.

[0 : 5 5] That church's faith grew exceedingly. But it can also become weak. And it can also fail. As Christ prayed for Simon Peter, that his faith fail not. And I just read today in Genesis about when Joseph and the famine was in the land, that the money failed.

When your money faileth, like it runs out. And so faith can fail too. Christ prayed for Peter's faith not to fail. But it's given by measure. And we saw that in Romans 12.

And then looked around the gospel, seeing some had great faith, some had little faith. And the gift of that faith of God to man is proportionate to the expectation of its use.

God gives everybody enough faith to believe on his son. That is an absolute. If no one exercises that faith, it'll never go anywhere. It'll just drop off and just become void or dead or however.

But when it's exercised, it can grow and take you to further things. Last week we took a look at the very first example in chapter 11 of Hebrews, which was Abel in verse number 4.

[2 : 0 0] And the faith of Abel illustrated to us how God, first and foremost, expects men to believe on a blood sacrifice, specifically the Lamb of God, to take away their sins.

And not rely on their deeds of their flesh like his brother Cain did. We saw the contrast of the faith of Abel versus the religion of Cain. Cain did his best.

But God didn't have respect to Cain's offering. And it wasn't a personal thing. It wasn't that Abel was better than Cain. It wasn't that at all. Because the Lord came to Cain and said, If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?

You had an opportunity to do the right thing, and you didn't. And I'm saved by the grace of God, and it has nothing to do with any goodness in me at all. And if you're saved too, we sang about it.

It's his righteousness alone. It's definitely not yours or mine. So the faith of Abel, the very first and on purpose the first one in this chapter, is showing you to trust a blood sacrifice to gain acceptance with God.

[3 : 05] And then the next example is in verses 5 and 6. It's a man named Enoch. So let's take a look at Enoch tonight, and we'll study the faith of Enoch. In verse number 5, Hebrews 11, 5, follow along.

By faith, Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found because God had translated him. Now I want to pause there.

If this is new to you, what in the world is that talking about? Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found. The man disappeared.

He just disappeared off of the face of the earth. They may have been wanted posters up. There may have been, you know, reward, stuff like that, maybe on a milk carton somewhere.

But Enoch was gone, never to be seen again on the planet. He just disappeared. And how is that, and what is that a reference to? Let me show you what this is. We'll come back to Hebrews, so keep your place.

[4 : 02] But if you go back to your left a few pages and books to 1 Corinthians 15, I want to show you and help you to understand what took place here, and what change was made in Enoch.

It's one that is, well, in the chapter that we're going to look at here, 1 Corinthians 15, the whole thing's about resurrection. And it's a description of Jesus Christ coming up out of the grave, and then how you and I are going to come up out of the grave, or if we don't ever see the grave, if the Lord comes back to get us before that, then we'll be changed, is the Bible word.

And that's what happened to Enoch. He was changed or translated. The verse we'll start with is in verse 51, where Paul says, Behold, I show you a mystery.

We shall not all sleep, meaning die, or have our bodies rest in the grave, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible.

And we, that is, we that are alive, we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption. What is this corrupt?

[5 : 19] It's your body. Your body is corruptible right now. And I don't know if I need to explain that to you, but I'll say it like this. If you would just do not bathe, do not brush anything, hair, teeth, do not shave anything, trim anything, just don't touch anything on your body, and you'll find out in a day, two days, a week's time, two weeks' time, this thing is pretty corruptible.

It's going to stink. It's just, that's the natural course that it takes. It just doesn't get better. It gets worse. And then your teeth start to rot. And then your skin starts to turn colors, or if you don't provide, so it's going to the grave, you know this.

So the corruptible has to put on something else, and that would be incorruption when we're changed. This mortal, a body that's capable of dying, must put on immortality.

Earlier in the chapter, in verse 44, it describes a body being a natural body. That's the one you're in right now. It is sown a natural body. It is raised a spiritual body.

So that spiritual body is going to be incorruptible. It's not going to decay. It's not going to stink. It's not going to be even capable of being put to death. It is also an immortal body.

[6 : 41] Now, that's the change that Paul talks about to the church here in Corinth. That's a mystery that he's revealing to Christians. Now, back in Hebrews, come back to chapter 11, when Enoch was translated or he was changed that he should not see death.

So he got to put on that incorruptible and immortal body because God translated him. Verse 5, By faith, Enoch was translated that he should not see death and was not found because God had translated him.

For before his translation, he had this testimony that he pleased God. But without faith, it is impossible to please him.

For he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Now, you'll notice that verse 5 is about Enoch, the man.

And then verse 6 is an addendum added on not specifically of Enoch necessarily, but in general terms, but it's clarifying or supporting what was true in the life of Enoch.

[7 : 51] It says God translated him. Before his translation, he had this testimony that he pleased God. Period. That's truth. Now, to give you a little understanding of that, verse 6 comes along and tells you a few things, and we're going to study this out tonight.

It becomes evident that when reading this portion of Scripture in Hebrews 11 about Enoch's faith, the focus isn't strictly upon the translation at all, although that's what's mentioned initially by faith.

Enoch was translated that he should not say death. Although it's mentioned first, but when you read both verses, you get a little background for, or into the reason for the translation, indicating that there's more to the story than just saying that, well, Enoch was translated.

He just disappeared. There's a reason why he disappeared. And that's where the faith is going to come in, and we're going to learn something from this. So I want to familiarize you with his life, what little we can find from it.

And so before we leave, or before we get into this passage in detail, I want to take you back to the little bit of account we can find of Enoch back in Genesis chapter 5.

[9 : 04] So flip back to Genesis, first book of the Bible, chapter 5, and we're coming back to Hebrews shortly. And let's just see what we can learn about Enoch.

This is a book of generations here, starting with Adam. And it moves through some generations until we land on a man named Enoch.

And he shows up in verse 18 when he's born. But let's begin in verse 21. And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and Megat Methuselah.

And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters. And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years.

And Enoch walked with God, and he was not. For God took him. Period. Moves on. Moves on to his boy.

[10 : 14] Enoch doesn't get mentioned anymore in this Old Testament at all, except for just in similar situations and chronologies of so-and-so begat so-and-so begat so-and-so. So there's no more details of his life back in Genesis chapter 5.

But what does it say about him here? It says it two times. Enoch walked with God. It gives you a time frame. Three hundred years the man walked with God after the birth of his son.

This is the only thing that this Old Testament yields in studying this man's life, is that he walked with God. But what does it mean to walk with God?

What does that mean? There's no real light coming out of this passage. He begat sons and daughters. What does it mean? So, we're going to have to go back to Hebrews to get the light.

And so let's go back there. All we know is that he walked with God. This is where our text in Hebrews gives us further details and sheds some necessary light upon his life.

[11 : 25] I need to remind you of something. We already commented on this two weeks ago, I'd say. The Old Testament did not focus upon the faith of these individuals.

It doesn't mention anything about Enoch's faith in Genesis chapter 5 or anywhere in Genesis to Malachi. The Old Testament, that's not the theme of the Old Testament, remember?

The word only shows up twice in the entire 39 books back there. It's not the theme. It's not the emphasis. But faith is the emphasis of the New Testament. And it is a theme of the New Testament.

And the New Testament is going to draw out those details that did exist in those persons back in the Old Testament. It was alive and active, but the Old Testament is just not teaching us about that.

But when needed in the New Testament to show us faith that we should be living by and walking by, it will go back to some of those characters and start to reveal some things about them and kind of expound upon their life.

[12 : 26] So in the New Testament, the details are revealed that existed back then. And here in Hebrews, it's going to use the story of Enoch to teach us how God expects us to live by faith today.

So let's break down the passage that we read in Hebrews 11 now. It says this in verse 5, By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death and was not found because God had translated him.

The passage back there said God took him. So he disappeared. God changed this physical, natural, earthly body into a spiritual body that's immortal and incorruptible and he's gone.

Okay, that's what we know. Now after that, now we need to get some details on why. Verse 5 in the middle, it says, For before, before his translation, that's important, before his translation, he had this testimony.

that he pleased God. Before he was translated, by faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death. But the emphasis isn't on the translation or the moment of that because before that ever happened, that man had a testimony and the testimony was he pleased God.

[13 : 50] Verse number 6 tells us something. Without faith, it's impossible to please him. So the text declares that pleasing God can only be done with faith.

It's impossible otherwise. So then it's obvious we can say this, I hope you're following me, this is not hard, Enoch walked with God by faith.

That's the truth. It doesn't declare it in the Old Testament. But now it does. And his example is to say he pleased God, and by the way, you can't please God without faith.

So Enoch walked with God by faith. Let's analyze this a little closer. Verse number 6, But without faith, it is impossible to please him.

More explanation given. For he that cometh to God must believe that he is. And there's a reference to faith, to belief.

[14 : 51] But notice this. It becomes evident to me that prior to Enoch walking with God, he first approached God in faith.

As it says, he that cometh to God must believe that he is. Well, Enoch must have checked that box then. Otherwise, we wouldn't be talking about this at all.

Therefore, I think we can deduce that Enoch walked with God, or rather, approached God in faith. Now think about it. This isn't hard stuff. If he could see God, if he could hear the voice of God speak to him, why would he need faith?

What faith is necessary for me to believe that you're here tonight when I can sit here and see you and talk to you? There is no faith necessary. If I wasn't here tonight and I heard that you were here, that would take a little bit of faith to believe that you came.

If God was revealing himself to Enoch in some tangible way, what's he need faith for? To believe that he is when he heard him or when he saw him.

[15 : 58] But the Bible is teaching us that Enoch approached God in faith. It was not visions. It was not dreams. It was not revelations or some intimate manifestation of God or some appearance, but it was by faith that Enoch approached God.

And by the way, not only does faith work for approaching to God, but faith is all that is needed to approach God. That's all you need. And that's what God gives.

So as the passage describes, this is how this operation goes. And I want to relate this to you today and tell you the same thing's true under this New Testament, that man must come to God by faith.

You can't see him. You can't hear him talk to you. He's not going to line stars up for you to spell some incredible message to you personally.

If you need to get an answer from God, a decision to make, you go to him in faith. You don't watch for the mail. You don't look for the clouds.

[17 : 05] You don't go to some knucklehead psychic or look for some cards to read out your future. You approach God and you approach him in faith.

Now, although God won't be seen by you, there is enough evidence to substantiate or to at least intrigue your faith. Time, the existence of time, demands the existence of the timeless.

And I know that's a little heavy and just don't get stuck on it because it'll blow your mind. But it's true. And in the same manner that creation demands a creator.

Or even, I should say, declares a creator. The same thing about this Holy Bible. It confirms to me that there's a holy God, a holy author. Because man can't do this.

Man can't write a book like this. There's plenty of evidence that points to the existence of God, but faith doesn't stand in evidence. The evidence is just supplemental. God must be approached in faith.

[18 : 11] He must be approached in faith. And he was approached by Enoch in faith. Because Enoch sought to learn of him and to know him and to understand him and to learn his truth.

And the text shows us that. Look back at verse 6 again. This is, remember, verse 6 is expounding on how he pleased God and it gives us some more truth. By faith, or without faith it's impossible to please him.

For he that cometh to God must believe that he is. And then the last portion says he that, and he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Does that not imply that Enoch diligently sought the Lord?

Else why is it there right underneath his name? No, Enoch approached God and then Enoch diligently sought God.

And he did it in faith. He did it in faith. Seeking God is an action. It involves curiosity. It involves questions. It involves conversations.

[19 : 13] A desire to learn and a desire to know something that, to gain something that you otherwise you just don't have. And Enoch sought the Lord. It requires a dissatisfaction with what's around you, with the things in this world that your hands can touch and can see.

And when you're dissatisfied with that, you want to know what's up there. You want to know who's up there. You want to know what it's like up there and what he's like and what does he want from me.

And as you're dissatisfied with the temporary and the carnal and the physical, that'll turn your heart to seek after God, to diligently seek after God.

And to do that, it must be done in faith. It has to be done in faith. And so there's only one source that could yield satisfactory answers to the questions man has.

It's a personal and true God. I said earlier, it's not the stars or some psychic or some witch or a good witch or just anything you put your fingers on on one of those Ouija boards.

[20 : 18] You don't want to go to any spirits or anything like that when you can go straight to God. And if you diligently seek after God, he's accessible or what's the word?

Accessible only when it's through faith. So Enoch, Enoch sought the Lord and I believe today we have the same access to the same source that Enoch had, but we have it in a more sure presentation in a perfectly preserved holy text where truth has been revealed to man, gifted and offered to man and preserved within the pages of the Holy Bible.

And if you get dissatisfied with the pleasures of sin and you get dissatisfied with the temporal foolishness of the world, it's like sand that just slips through your fingers.

When you get tired of all that, when you desire to know truth and what life is all about and what's beyond this short little tiny spectrum of the human life, you could do some seeking.

And if you're going to seek, you're going to have to seek the Lord in faith to learn his truth. Let me take you to a passage in Proverbs. We're going to come back to Hebrews or somewhere back here, but go to Proverbs chapter 2.

[21 : 34] This is such a loaded and compacted portion on seeking the Lord and seeking wisdom and truth.

And we understand from Enoch it has to be done by faith. So Proverbs chapter 2, and let's read the first nine verses together here.

My son, if thou wilt receive my words and hide my commandments with thee, so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom and apply thine heart to understanding, yea, if thou criest after knowledge and liftest up thy voice for understanding, if thou seekest her as silver and searchest for her as for hid treasures, then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God, for the Lord giveth wisdom.

Out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous. He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly, keepeth the paths of the judgment and preserveth the way of his saints.

Then shalt thou understand righteousness and judgment and equity, yea, every good path. You'll notice there's an action that has to be accomplished on your behalf.

[22 : 56] behalf you've got to seek and cry and search and desire it. The Lord layeth it up. He's got it in store. But you're going to have to come and approach him in faith and seek his truth and his knowledge and then you'll find it.

You'll understand it in verse 5. Understand it and find it because the Lord will start giving it. The Lord will speak in verse 6 and out comes knowledge and understanding.

So Enoch approached God in faith. Enoch sought to know God in faith and then let's understand using what he learned, he walked with God by faith.

He didn't walk with God on his own terms. He had to have learned these truths to be a pleasure to God, to please him, to have that testimony. All of these things line up and become very obvious.

He sought the Lord diligently. He learned some things. He received truth and knowledge and understanding and applied it and began to walk with God.

[24 : 05] And we know it was by faith that he walked with God. In his life of faith testified back in Hebrews 11, he had this testimony that he pleased God.

His walk testified. All of that combined to earn him a testimony that he pleased God because he walked with him by faith. Now there's one more mention of Enoch in the Bible.

Does anybody know where it is? Does anybody else know where it is that didn't hear him? It's in Jude. All the way to the back. Almost Revelation. Second to last book.

It's a real short one. You could miss it. Find the book of Jude and this is one other time that Enoch is mentioned in the Bible. And we learn one more truth about his behavior and about his testimony that got him that testimony that he pleased God.

Find Jude and we want to read verses 14 and 15. It's referring to some future wicked men and some false prophets and teachers and ungodly men and things that are and then it uses Enoch as an example of a preacher.

[25 : 26] And look at verse 14 and Enoch also the seventh from Adam we know that's Genesis 5 that's what we read prophesied of these saying behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints to execute judgment upon all and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Does Enoch have a little bit of a chip on his shoulder? A little attitude toward the people that he lives around? He prophesied that the Lord's going to come and execute judgment.

And what is his favorite word? It shows up four times in verse 15. He's preaching against the ungodly and their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed.

Ungodly sinners spoken against him. Enoch declared to an ungodly world around him that God is righteous that he was coming to judge the earth and to judge their sins and you might say that he spoke or I might even add the word he preached in faith.

He preached in faith. His testimony was that he pleased God but what his mouth testified came out in faith.

[26 : 53] Where did he get that God's coming and that God's going to judge? And that God's not happy with the way men are living their lives on this earth? Where did he get this concept that he spoke of and preached on?

I think he learned this by approaching God in faith and by seeking to know the Lord in faith and by walking with God by faith. The understanding and the knowledge of truth grew as he walked with God and he's surrounded by ungodliness as is apparent in the text.

He's surrounded by it. As you know coming from Enoch, Methuselah and then comes, is it Lamech and Noah? I might have skipped the one or got one. I think that's what it is. And he's just a few generations and he was alive.

The next, his son was alive all the way up. Which, I mean, the thing got so bad, God said, I'm destroying the whole thing with a flood. God, it was pretty bad, and you can count on it being pretty bad in his day.

It didn't just get bad at the end there. And so Enoch experienced some things surrounded by it, but he was influenced by something else. He was influenced by a fellowship with God.

[28 : 05] He was not conformed to the world around him as his apparent. His mind was renewed. His life was transformed into a life that pleased God. That was not normal in his day, and it was not popular in his day, but Enoch had a testimony.

It was testified of him that he pleased God, because he walked with God by faith, and as he walked with God, truth was revealed, and he understood things that everybody else had no idea.

And let me just relate this to you, because this is for you today. This is exactly what God is calling you and I to do today. To seek the Lord on your own, to diligently seek him, and to learn truth from his word, and to grow in that truth.

And what's around you is ungodly sinners, and ungodly deeds, and that truth can change you, and it can keep you from that ungodliness.

It can sanctify you, and separate you. If you're dissatisfied with this world, and with what everybody else is indulging in, allow God to purge you into making you a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the master's use, one that can be a pleasure to him, and as all of this transforms your life and transforms your thinking, watch how it transforms your preaching.

[29 : 37] Now you say, well, I'm not a preacher. No, yes you are. you preach. Your life preaches, your words preach. You don't have to write a sermon and stand in front of a pulpit.

You have a testimony. And Enoch testified with his mouth that God's coming, and you people are unrighteous, and his judgment's coming, and he was warning them and preaching against their sin.

I imagine that if you start walking with God and start seeking God and allowing his truth to start getting in and getting in and getting in, it's not just going to stay in, it's going to start coming out.

That's how it worked for Enoch. And it's supposed to come out, by the way. You're not supposed to keep it all into yourself. God doesn't wash you and change you and give you light so that you can hold it in.

It's supposed to shine outwardly. And Enoch did that. And I bet it was dark where he was from. And he stood up and preached. And as he preached, he warned them, and that's what God's calling you and I to do, is to warn them of hell and show them a way to heaven.

[30 : 46] And they think, what in the world happened to you? Did you get all religion on me? You could say, well, I've been walking with God. That's why I'm talking to you like this.

That's why this is coming out of me. I've been walking with God by faith. I've been seeking God. I've been learning his truth, and that truth has transformed my life.

And you can tell them it can do the same for you. So this is the faith of Enoch tonight. The Bible never mentions, please get this, this is the end.

The Bible never mentions that he saw God with his eyes. It never mentions that he performed any miracles or many wonderful feats, that he had any supernatural powers.

The Bible never indicates that he had some special gift or that he experienced anything different than anybody else in his generation. But what it does state about him is that he approached God by faith, and that he diligently sought to know God and understand his truth by faith, and that he walked with God in that light that he received by faith, and all of that gave him a testimony that everybody knew that man pleases God.

[32 : 10] He does it by faith. So Christian, following the faith of Abel in verse number four, following, exercising that little bit of faith you have in not your deeds and not your works and not some religion you grew up in, but exercising your faith in the person of Jesus Christ alone, when you're saved by receiving his free gift of eternal life by faith, the second step, the next evidence of faith in this book is one that teaches you to walk with him, to approach him personally.

You start approaching him by faith. Start seeking after him, to learn some things from him, to understand what do you want me to do in this world, God?

What can I do for you, seeing how you gave your son for me? How can I please you? That's seeking and that's approaching and seeking him in faith.

And you start walking with him. And you allow his truth to influence you rather than the world around you to influence you. And it changes you into someone that can please him.

And all of this must be, can only be done by faith. That's the only way. So the first faith is for salvation.

[33 : 42] The next one is for developing a walk with the Lord. A day by day by day by day walk with the Lord Jesus Christ where you're growing, you're learning, you're changing, and you're pleasing the God that saved you.

And before long, a little bit of that and you won't fit in with the ungodly. You just won't belong there anymore. You'll fit in with a new crowd, with a new people that have the same affection and the same relationship with God that they got by faith.

And then, as you walk, you too can have Enoch's testimony that you, that he or she pleased God.

Do you want anything else? Seriously, do you want anything else? What's the top of your list? What is on the top? Is it, I just want to please God?

Or is there something better than that? That's the one that gets commended. Remember that passage about whom the Lord commends? Enoch gets commended.

[34 : 58] So I hope that makes sense to you. The first one has its place with Abel. Enoch has another one and it's important. It's very important. This is all elementary stuff, but this is our life of faith.

This is what Paul tells us to do. Walk by faith, not by sight. And it's done like that. So maybe you need to learn how to approach God. Maybe you need to learn how to pray. And just to get on your face, by yourself, nobody's in the room, and just you and the Lord, and you just start talking.

And you just start asking. And you listen. And you approach him by opening up this Holy Bible, and you start to read it. And you don't look at it like this is sacred, this is something I don't understand.

No, you start to actually read the words, and turn the pages, and just read and continue, and read and continue, and digest, and get what you can get, and let God start to speak to you, and start to show you truth.

Because you're seeking for it. You're searching for it. And the Lord has it in store. And he might just start opening your eyes to something, and leading you.

[36 : 05] And then you do what? You walk by faith. So let's close with that. Men, I'm going to practice some songs. I've got two songs up here I want to work over with you.

If you're able to stick around, stick around, and we'll practice our songs. And then other than that, Lord willing, we'll see you Sunday morning at nine o'clock. Let's pray. Father in heaven, thank you for this example tonight.

Thank you for drawing our attention to walking with you by faith. And Lord, help us to exercise faith in the very little things in this life where we've maybe seen you do some things in the past and then forget that we're supposed to trust you today in every area.

help us, God, to be reminded of this and draw us to a relationship with you where sometimes we walk by sight, we walk by fear, we react to things and it's not in faith.

So Lord, draw us to faith tonight and help us to grow as individuals closer to you in this manner we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. You're dismissed.