

When you think of great figures in history, many names can come to mind. In the field of entertainment you might think of Elvis Presley or Frank Sinatra. In politics there is Franklin Roosevelt, or John Kennedy, or Ronald Reagan. Finance maybe names like Howard Hughes or Donald Trump. Many great names stand out in history and the same thing is true in scripture. There are many names recorded in the word of God because of their great faith and spiritual accomplishments.

In the OT there are names like Noah, Abraham, Moses and Elijah or in the NT these is John the Baptist or Peter, Paul, James and John and of course the name above all names, Jesus the Christ. Out of all the names in scripture, there is one name that probably none of you considered. I'm speaking of the great man of faith named Enoch. From a human perspective we don't know a lot about this man. The story of his life is contained in only 145 words; 51 words in the OT and 94 in the NT. In the entire Bible there are only six verses that deal with his life. We read about him in Gen 5, Heb 11 and Jude vs 14-15.

While there is so much about him that we do not know, there is one thing about him that we do know. He was a man that stood head and shoulders above the crowd of his day. He is one of only two men in all of scripture that is said, "*He walked with God.*" He was so impressive that his name is included in the Hall of Faith of Heb. 11. We're going to look at the life of Enoch in hopes that it will help us in our life.

First, he was a man who lived **A DEVOTED LIFE**. The name Enoch means "*dedicated/committed*" and that certainly depicts his character. His name indicated that his life was devoted to the things that really mattered. This is seen from his pursuit of God. We are first introduced to him in Genesis 5. (*Gen 5:22*) ***And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: (23) And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: (24) And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*** Note the text says twice that the Enoch walked with God and what a complement that was. It describes the direction of his life. Walking w/God means you are going in the same direction that God is going. When we live as God would have us to live, we are walking with God.

It's interesting that the scripture doesn't say that God walked with Enoch, but that Enoch walked with God. This simply implies that God doesn't necessarily travel in our directions but rather we need to travel in His direction. Our direction may be the wrong way. *On one occasion during the civil war some people came to President Lincoln requesting a day of fasting and mourning to make sure that God is on our side. To that request Lincoln said, "God is on the right side and what we need to do is get with Him."* So in life, it's important to make sure we are on God's side and that we *"walk with Him."*

Not only is the direction of Enoch's live impressive, but also the **DURATION OF HIS LIFE**. Back in Gen. 5 we have the genealogy of the early human race and how long A/E's descendants lived and beget children. In that list was Enoch and he has the same pattern as all the others. We learn in v22 that Enoch lived 65 years and then he begat Methuselah. Then after the birth of Methuselah we read that he *"walked with God for 300 years."*

It seems that the day that child was born, Enoch recognized his responsibility to the Lord and for the next 300 years he served God. This shows that his faith was not a casual *spur-of-the-moment* thing. This is not always the case with some Christians. Sometimes their faith seems to evaporate. Jesus speaks of this behavior in his parable of the sower. The seed is scattered and some seed fell on good hearts and briefly took root before being choked out by the pressures of life. Some people start off with a bang but soon fizzle out; their faith falters. But our service to God was never intended to be a thing of the moment but rather a lifetime commitment. So as long as we live on this earth, we need to do our best to be faithful to God.

This doesn't happen accidentally. You can unintentionally drift away from God, but you don't accidentally draw closer to God. It takes diligent effort to draw close to God. **(2Timothy 2:15) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** That word *"study"* means *"to give diligence."* So Paul is telling Timothy to *"make an effort to show yourself approved of God."* I want you to consider the effort you are putting forth today to make sure that you are faithful tomorrow. The Christian life is a test of endurance and it's going to require a

commitment by you. *(Gal 6:9) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.* Enoch was impressive because of the long-term commitment he made to follow God and he walked with God all the days of his life.

You can also see his devotion in his **PASSION FOR GOD**. *(Heb 11:5) 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.* We see Enoch's passion in who he believed. The passage ends by telling us ... *he had this testimony, that he pleased God.* The testimony given about the life of Enoch pleased God. Look now at v6 and you will see how he pleased God. *(Heb 11:6) 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.* Enoch pleased God because he had faith in God. You cannot please God w/o faith in God. Enoch's faith led him to believe in the reality of God. Now Enoch didn't have the written revelation like we have today. He lived in the period of the patriarchs, but it is apparent that some way God had communicated to the people of that day and Enoch believed it.

Today if we are going to be pleasing to God we too must believe that He is and to believe in His word – all of His word. 2 Tim 3:16 tells us that *all scripture is given by the inspiration of God.* Some want to pick and choose which scripture they want to accept and disregard the passages that they don't like, but to be pleasing to God we embrace all scripture and not just selected portions. It's all or nothing.

Not only did Enoch believe in the reality of God, he also believed in the reward of God. *That he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.* Enoch believed that God punishes sin and rewards righteousness. Many people today don't take sin very seriously. They give very little thought about God and His concern for sinful behavior. They fail to consider that God is a God of justice/holiness and cannot and will not tolerate sin. *Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;* One day the ungodly and unrighteous will receive the wrath of God and *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb 10:31)*

Enoch had a passion for God. This passion is seen in his belief but it is also seen in his behavior – **he walked with God**. Now what makes this so impressive is the character of the people in the time that he lived. It's never easy to be faithful to God because of Satan's influence on the world, but if there was ever an ungodly period of time, it was in Enoch's lifetime. Enoch lived in the worst days of human history. He lived in the evil generation just prior to the flood. *(Jude 1:14) And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, (15) 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.* In describing the people of the time, v15 uses the word "ungodly" four times. *(Gen 6:5) And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* We know that it got so bad that God destroyed the world with a flood; yet in this ungodly setting, Enoch lived a godly life.

Now in similarity, today in our world there is much wicked and ungodly living. We wonder if today the wickedness rivals the ungodliness of Enoch/Noah's day. We live in a time of murder and hatred is rampant; a time when sexual perversion of all kinds is socially accepted; a time when man has been degraded to nothing more than an animal. There are no absolutes and everyman is pretty much a law unto himself – if it feels good then do it. Some get discouraged and think there is no way to live a godly life in our society. Let me tell you "Yes there is." Enoch is an example to us that you can live a godly life in an ungodly world. *(2 Cor. 6:17) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.* Where ever you are, God expects you to live a righteousness life. We are to shine like lights in a world of darkness and sin. Enoch did.

No. 2. Enoch had a distinguished departure. We'll close by mentioning what most people know about Enoch; he never died. Enoch was translated by God because of his great faith. That word translate carries the idea of transfer or transport something.

He *obeyed* God, and followed Him in His paths by faith. No one can walk with God unless he is in *agreement* with and obeys the *will* of God. (**Gen 5:23**) ***And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*** The Scripture says that he "walked with God." Notice that Moses did *not* record that Enoch is *still* walking with God. The text does not say that Enoch did not die. It says "*he was not for God took him.*" The Bible **Does Not Say That Enoch Went To Heaven** when he was translated. Some versions say "*he was not found.*" Certainly Enoch was "*translated,*" but what does the word "*translate*" mean? Strange as it may seem, nowhere in the entire Bible does "*translate*" mean to make immortal! The original Greek word for "translate" according to Strong's Concordance it signifies: *transfer, transport, exchange, change sides.*

The same Greek word is rendered "*carried over*" in Acts 7:16 where we read that after Jacob died his body was "carried over" to Sychem where he was **buried!** Jacob was transported or translated to the place of *burial!*

I want to suggest to you that is why Moses said that God **TOOK** Enoch. God removed—translated—him so that *he was not found*. Perhaps God took Enoch and like Moses buried him! In Deuteronomy 34:6 we read also how God took Moses from the people after which he died and was buried by God. "***But no man knoweth his sepulcher unto this day.***" God removed Moses—God translated him—and *he was not found* either!

Enoch was not made immortal. Instead he was taken away and was not found. Notice another passage where "translate" does not mean to make immortal. It is found in Col. 1:13: the Father "***hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath TRANSLATED us into the kingdom of His dear Son.***" Here the Bible says that Christians are *already translated*, but Christians still die! We are not immortal bodies in the darkness of the world, but *now* we are translated, *removed* from darkness into the light of the kingdom of God.

Enoch is included by Paul (in Hebrews 11) among the fathers who obtained a good report through faith; but "ALL these, having obtained a good report through faith, *received not the promise*" (Heb. 11:39). What promise? The "hope of *eternal life*, which God, that cannot lie, *promised* before the world began (Titus 1:2). (**Heb 11:5**) ***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.*** Like Gen 5, this verse does not say that Enoch did not die. It says that he "*should not see death*" future tense, not past tense. The death in the future has reference to the second death and certainly because of his great faith and obedience Enoch should not experience a second death.

For each of us, as one walking with God and living by faith, the end is a glorious transformation to an incorruptible form that pleases God. What is the direction of your life today? Are you walking with God? If not, as with any journey, it begins with that first step.

Invitation