

LORD, INCREASE OUR FAITH

Sermon Four – “Walking By Faith—A Life That Pleases God”

Text: Hebrews 11:5, 6; Genesis 5:18-24

INTRODUCTION: Faith is saying with boldness what God has already said. Hebrews 13:5-6 – *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have for **He hath said**, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. **So that we may boldly say**, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”* These verses give us a New Testament Principle of an Old Testament Precept.

1. *“for He (God) hath said . . .”*
2. *“So that we may boldly say . . .”*

We began our series of messages by learning Hebrews 10:38, *“Now the just shall live **by faith**.”* This is a quote from Habakkuk 2:4 – *“Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: **but the just shall live by his faith.**”*

1. The unbeliever is lifted up in pride and arrogance and loves, lives for, and depends upon the world (I John 2:15-17).
2. The contrast is between people who trust in themselves and leave God out of their lives and people of faith who believe in God (Luke 18:9).
3. This verse is quoted in Romans 1:17 where the emphasis is on the **just**, in Galatians 3:11 where the emphasis is on **how the just shall live**, and in Hebrews 10:38 where the emphasis is on **faith**.

In that first message we also learned that the *“just”* (*dikaïos*) or justified person is one who has been declared to be righteous because he has been made righteous by trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ. They are a true Christian.

“By faith” is the only way a Christian is to live. The just should live by a continued confidence in God.

In the first message of this series we also learned that: If the *“just”* is to live by faith, the *“just”* must know what faith is. Hebrews 11 gives us both a description of faith and many demonstrations of faith.

1. Faith is Confidence (Hebrews 11:1a – *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, . . .”*).
2. Faith is Conviction (Hebrews 11:1b – *“the evidence of things not seen”*). It is the proof, *“evidence”* – the inner awareness of the reality, the conviction).

3. **Faith is Communication** (Hebrews 11:2 – *“For by it the elders obtained a good report.”* — By faith the elders received a good report, a message, a revelation, a communication from God).
4. **Faith is Comprehension** (Hebrews 11:3 – *“Through faith we understand . . .”* --Faith enables believers to receive and believe what God does without it all having to be explained).

In our second message we learned that the **just** person must **“Worship by Faith”**.

“And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering . . . But unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect.” (Genesis 4:4, 5; Hebrews 11:4).

The man was being judged rather than his offering. The emphasis is on each man. Notice the verses do not read: *“The Lord had respect unto Abel’s offering, but unto Cain’s offering He had not respect.”* The verses read: *“And the Lord had respect unto **Abel** and to his offering: But unto **Cain** and to his offering He had not respect.”*

Abel presented his offering by faith (Hebrews 11:4). Cain presented his offering in the flesh (Genesis 4:5).

In our third message we learned about Hannah, a mother of faith whose prayer of faith (I Samuel 1:10) and promise of faith (I Samuel 1:11-17) brought a great product of faith, her son Samuel (I Samuel 1:27). In this fourth message we will learn that it is also by faith that we walk with God. What does it mean to walk with God? What is a life that walks with God?

I. **IT IS A LIFE OF FAITH** (Genesis 5:18-24)

A. **The Enoch mentioned in Hebrews 11:5 is the son of Jared (Genesis 5:18).**

1. Enoch was the father of Methuselah (Genesis 5:21).
2. He was the grandson of Mahalaleel (Genesis 5:16).

B. **“Enoch”** (*chanowk*) means dedicated; initiated.

C. **Enoch is a typology. He typifies the saints who will be caught away bodily to heaven before the end time judgments begin.**

D. **In Enoch’s day two kinds of people dwelled upon the earth.**

1. The ungodly descendants of Cain.
2. The godly descendants of Seth.

E. **Enoch believed what God said about Sin.**

1. Genesis 2:15-16 *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."*
2. See Romans 3:10, 23: 6:23.

F. Enoch pleased God (Hebrews 11:5).

1. He walked by faith.
2. Hebrews 11:6 *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: (God)."*

G. Genesis 5 reads like an obituary ("*...and he died.*" vs. 5, 7, 11, 17, 20, 27, 31).

1. It is almost as if God is proving the devil a liar.
2. The devil had said to Eve, *"Ye shall not surely die:"* (Genesis 3:4).
3. God said, *"...and he died...and he died...and he died."*

H. Enoch was a prophet of God (Jude 14-15).

1. Where did Enoch get his faith? (Romans 10:17)
2. He was a prophet. Jude 14-15 says, *"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, 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."*
3. He prophesied the second coming of Christ centuries before Christ's first coming had even taken place.
4. He talked about a personal judgment upon all.
 - a. The Lord Himself will come to execute judgment upon all.
 - b. It will be a universal judgment.
 - c. It will be a righteous judgment.
 - d. The Lord will convict ungodly men of sin, declare them guilty, pass sentence, and execute punishment.
 - e. Jesus Christ will be Judge, Jury, Prosecutor, and Executioner (John 5:22).
 - f. There will be no defense and no appeals.
 - g. There is no higher court than God's judgment (I Peter 3).
5. Who taught Enoch? Enoch was a contemporary of Adam and Eve.
6. **Imagine!! Enoch perhaps would ask Adam,** "What was it like to walk with God in the garden?"

II. IT IS A LIFE OF FELLOWSHIP (Genesis 5:22)

- A. Enoch walked with God (Genesis 5:22, 24).
- B. "walked" (*halak*) means to live in obedience to God's commands and to have communion with God.
- C. Enoch communed, walked, and observed the wonders of God together with God.
- D. God wants us to know Him (Psalm 46:10 *"Be still and know that I am God."*).
- E. God wants us to be in fellowship with Him (I John 1:3 *"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."*
- F. Fellowship means companionship, a relationship in which parties hold something in common (Amos 3:3 *"Can two walk together except they be agreed?"*)
- G. Micah 6:8 *"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"*
- H. Do you have a desire to know God and be in companionship with God?
 - 1. Moses did.
 - 2. Exodus 33:13 *"Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight; and consider that this nation is thy people."*
- I. Paul wanted to know God (Philippians 3:7-10).

III. IT IS A LIFE OF FAITHFULNESS (Genesis 5:22).

- A. Enoch was consistent in his walk with God.
- B. Enoch walked faithfully with God for three hundred years.
 - 1. Enoch walked with God in the days of Noah.
 - 2. The days of Noah were days of social permissiveness. People did their own thing. Lawlessness flourished. Immorality was an accepted lifestyle.
 - 3. The days of Noah were days of scientific progression.
 - a. Strides were made in science, engineering, and technology.
 - b. Great cities were being built and the population was exploding.

4. The days of Noah were days of **spiritual poverty**. Genesis 6:3, 5 *“And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh:...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.”*
5. Violence, wickedness, and demonic activities were so rampant that God decided to destroy the world with a Flood (Genesis 6:7)—yet Enoch walked with God.

C. Enoch was not double-minded in his walk.

IV. IT IS A LIFE OF FRUITFULNESS (He pleased God)

A. Hebrews 11:5c *“...for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”*

B. Enoch pleased God. That’s fruitfulness.

1. What made Enoch fruitful? He was a prophet of God.
2. Enoch had a crisis in his life that caused him to walk with God. What was it?
 - a. Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah.
 - b. He had a child when he was 65 years old (Genesis 5:22).
3. When Enoch was sixty-five years old, he had an encounter with the living God that changed his life. From that time forward he began to walk with God.
4. This child’s name was Methuselah.
5. Methuselah means *“when he is dead, it will come, or it will be sent.”*
6. Amos 3:7 *“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto his servants the prophets.”*

C. God revealed to Enoch that judgment was coming.

1. Jude 14-15
2. Enoch prophesied that judgment would come.

D. Because Enoch believed God by faith, God was pleased with Enoch.

E. Because God was pleased with Enoch, God “translated” (metatithem) him which means to transfer to another place; a change of position.

1. Methuselah lived 187 years and begat Lamech (Genesis 5:25).
2. Methuselah became a father at 187 years old.
3. Lamech lived 182 years and begat a son whose name was Noah (Genesis 5:28-29).

4. Noah was Methuselah's grandson. Methuselah was 369 years old when Noah was born ($187 + 182 = 369$).
5. When Noah was 600 years old the Flood came (Genesis 7:11).
6. Add $369 + 600 = 969$ years. The day that Methuselah died (Genesis 5:25) the Flood came (Genesis 7:11).

CONCLUSION: *"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."* (Genesis 5:24). *"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."* (Hebrews 11:5). This verse does not teach that Enoch had faith to be translated. God translated Enoch because he lived a life of faith that pleased God. It was by faith that Enoch lived his life. Faith creates a close personal relationship with God. Faith is the only way we can walk with God. II Corinthians 5:7 says, *"For we walk by faith, not by sight."*