

# ENOCH: A MAN WHO PLEASSED GOD

C. Stephen David | *Ekklesia Evangelical Fellowship* | August 13, 2023

## Context:

**Remember the Author's aim:** The Christian Hebrews were shaken in their faith and were tempted to return to Judaism. The author's aim was to teach his audience how the faith of God's people rewarded them, encouraging his readers to persevere in their faith until they are rewarded.

- ❖ **Hebrews 6: [11]** And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, **[12]** so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
- ❖ **Hebrews 11: [1]** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **[2]** For by it the people of old received their commendation...

## After speaking about Abel's faith,

- ❖ **Hebrews 11: [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.

**Genesis 5:** List of primal fathers who lived to lengthy ages.

- Beginning from Adam to Noah, ten men were mentioned. Enoch stands out the most.
- Two persons with the name Enoch:
  - **Son of Cain, Genesis 4:17**, "Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch."
  - **Son of Jared** in the line of Seth (a little about him in the Bible)
    - **Meaning of Enoch:** Dedicated, trained, disciplined

**Genesis 5:** [18] When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered Enoch. [19] Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. [20]

Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died. [21] When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. **[22] Enoch walked with God** 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, for God took him.

### **Some facts about Enoch:**

- Enoch was **the son of Jared** and **the father of Methuselah**, who lived the longest life on earth (969 years), and **the great-grandfather of Noah** (Methuselah—Lamech—Noah).
- In the list of lengthy lives that several primal fathers lived (above 900 years), Enoch lived the shortest life (365 years).
  - ❖ For instance, if he had died in 2023, he could have been born in 1658☺

Enoch outshines in the dull genealogy of Genesis 5 and is renowned for two things (because of which many seem to have his name):

- **Enoch walked with God**, mentioned twice:
  - ❖ **Genesis 5:22**, **Enoch walked with God** after he fathered Methuselah **300 years** [what consistency!] and had other sons and daughters.
  - ❖ **Genesis 5:24**, Enoch walked with God...

**Anthropomorphism** (the attribution of human characteristics): Walking with God is not literally like walking with a man. God does not have a body.

- ❖ **Septuagint translates** [Hebrew Greek Bible], Enoch pleased God...
- ❖ **Hebrews 11:5**, Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.
  - “Walked with God” and “Pleased God” mean the same thing.
- **God took Enoch.**
  - In the list of the men mentioned in Genesis 5, after living for so many years, it is written “and he died”. But about Enoch, it is written:
    - ❖ **Genesis 5:24**, Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

- This happened 57 years after Adam's death (who lived 930 years) and 69 years before Noah's birth. Adam and Enoch lived 308 years together...
- ❖ **Hebrews 11: [5]** By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him.
- In the entire Holy Scripture, only three men were directly taken into heaven. Two didn't taste death (Elijah <2 Kings 2> and Enoch), and one tasted death but rose from the dead (Lord Jesus Christ)

**How did Enoch walk with God? How did he please God? How do we also, walk with God and please Him? TO WALK WITH GOD IS TO WALK BY FAITH.**

- ❖ **Hebrews 11: [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 (or walked with 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.

**It doesn't say:** Without faith, it is **difficult** to please God. **It says:** Without faith, it is **impossible** to please God.

**What is faith?**

- **Bible scholar B F Wescott:** [In Hebrews 11:1] The object of the writer is not to give a formal definition of Faith but to bring out characteristics of Faith which bear upon his argument.
- **Faith is trusting God for who He says He is (His character) and what He says He did, doing, and will do (His word).**
- Faith is not just a profession of Christian beliefs. These professions of Christian beliefs shape the Christian life.

**How is faith exhibited in real life?**

### **1. ENOCH PLEASED GOD BY HAVING FAITH IN GOD EXISTENCE**

*(11:6, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists)*

**What is pleasing God? Genesis 6:[5]** The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart

was only evil continually. **[6] And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.**

- **Pleasing God is bringing delight or pleasure to God's heart by living according to His will. Pleasing God is not earning God's love but making efforts to please Him for unconditionally loving us.**

Exhortation to believers in **2 Corinthians 5:9**, So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him.**

**Enoch pleased God by having faith in God's existence. Believing in God's existence has two aspects:**

- a) Intellectual belief in the existence of God.
- b) A life lived in the consciousness of God's existence, which ultimately leads to living a God-fearing life.

**A life lived in the consciousness of God's existence is beautifully explained in Psalm 139:**

[1] O LORD, you have searched me and known me! [2] You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. [3] You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. [4] Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. [5] You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. [6] Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. [7] Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? [8] If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! [9] If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, [10] even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. [17] How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! [18] If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you. [23] Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! [24] And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

**Richard Philipps (Bible commentator):** This is the Christian life! It is not a bare knowledge of facts, or a grim recitation of doctrines. To be a Christian is to walk with God, to know him and to live in the light of his presence.

**Enoch walked with God or pleased God in the midst of the moral corruption of his generation is clearly expressed in his prophecy mentioned Jude 14, 15:**

- ❖ Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” (cited from the book of Enoch, a non-canonical book)

**So, what does it mean that Enoch walked with God or pleased God?** Enoch believed that God existed and walked in His fear (lived in the awareness of God’s presence). Therefore, Enoch was commended as having pleased God (God took great delight in him).

**Comment:** True faith in God’s existence leads us to live a God-fearing life.

**Total Depravity:** Romans 3: [v. 18], **there is no fear of God before his eyes.**

**Redemption: Jeremiah 32:40,** And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. **[Invitation]**

**Caution:** It is easier to profess faith in God and live a godless life. Let us please God by living a God-fearing life. If we fail, let’s repent and apply the blood of Christ and pursue living a God-pleasing life.

## **2. ENOCH PLEASSED GOD BY HAVING FAITH IN GOD WHO REWARDS**

*(11:6, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he rewards those who seek him.)*

**Note:** Enoch believed in Him, and therefore He earnestly sought Him. **True faith in God leads us to earnestly seek His face.**

**Psalms 14:2** The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

**Total depravity: Romans 3:11,** no one understands; no one seeks for God.

**Redemption: 1 Peter 3:18,** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that **he might bring us to God... [Invitation]**

**Sign of salvation:** Seek God (Diligent Search)

**Andrew Murray:** Faith seeks for God; it believes that He is; it keeps the heart open towards Him; it bows in humility and hope for Him to make Himself known. To know God, to see God in everything and everywhere, in our daily life to be conscious of His presence so that we always walk with Him—this is the true nobility of man; this is the life that faith lives; this is the blessedness Jesus has now fully revealed in the rending of the veil. Faith can walk with God.

**Hebrews 11:6,** for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he rewards those who seek him.

**Rewards those who seek Him:** F.F. Bruce rightly observes, “The reward desired by those who seek him is the joy of finding him; he himself proves to be their ‘exceeding joy’ (Ps. 43:4).”

**John Piper:** I believe that the reward there is Christ, ultimately God. I do believe in degrees of rewards in heaven, but ultimately every reward is leading to God and he is the final reward...Christ is our reward, and everything else is our reward that more fully reveals him and more fully enables us to enjoy him.

**Enoch believed and sought God, and God took him to be with Him.**

**Point:** The amazement of this historical event is not that Enoch didn't face death but that God took Him to be with Himself.

**Remember:** It's not just Enoch that God took. The Scripture claims in several places in the Scripture that He will come to take us too.

**Hebrews 9:28,** So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.**

**Hebrews 10:35** Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward (incomparable reward). [36] For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. [37] For, “Yet a little while, and **the coming one will come and will not delay**; [38] but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” [39] But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed (eternal judgment), but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

**Summary:** Trust God, seek God, persevere in your faith till the end, and don't let troubles derail you in your walk with God. The Lord is coming soon to take us to be with Him. Let's wait upon Him!