

## **“Walking With God”**

Genesis 5:21-24

The fifth chapter of Genesis is one of the most sobering and soul-searching chapters in the Bible, though it might not appear this way at first glance. It begins by saying, “This is the book of the generations of Adam.” The chapter records for us the first ten generations of Adam’s descendants.

**Romans 5:12 - “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men.”**

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:22 that in Adam, all die. We literally see this before our very eyes in this chapter.

**5:5 - “Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.”**

**5:8 - “Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.”**

**5:11 - “Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.”**

**5:14 - “Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.”**

**5:17 - “Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.”**

**5:20 - “Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.”**

**5:27 - “Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.”**

**5:31 - “Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.”**

These are the generations of Adam, generations of death. Sin results in death. The Holy Spirit wants us to equate the two, hence the oft repeated phrase throughout the chapter, “and he died.” However, there is one name in the midst of this chapter that stands out from the rest--Enoch, the seventh from Adam.

Enoch is one of those mysterious characters in the Bible that we don’t know very much about. But what we do know about Enoch packs a punch; we know that Enoch was a worshiper.

The Bible says that Enoch was a man who walked with God. Instead of dying, Scripture says that God simply took him. Even more intriguing is the fact that Enoch walked with God in the midst of a corrupt culture. Enoch walked with God during one the most difficult periods in human history.

Enoch is mentioned briefly here in Genesis, he is mentioned once in a genealogy in 1 Chronicles 1 and a genealogy in Luke 3. There are two other New Testament passages where some light is shed on his life.

One of these is the “Hall of the Faithful” in Hebrews 11:

**Hebrews 11:5-6 - “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 had this testimony, that he pleased God.”**

The other passage is in the small book of Jude:

**Jude 14-15 - “Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, Behold, the Lord comes with then 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.”**

Enoch is a remarkable example from Scripture of what it means to walk with God and worship God as a way of life. I want you to notice from the Scriptures how his love for God was on display for all to see.

### **1. Enoch lived his LIFE purposefully**

*“When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.”*

Enoch’s life stands out like a diamond in the rough in these first few chapters of Genesis. His life is an example of what it means to be a worshiper of God through the

way one lives his life. Worship was not compartmentalized in Enoch's life, but was instead the purpose for which he lived and breathed.

#### The CONTEXT of Enoch's life

We should keep in mind that Enoch lived in the days that led up to the Flood. From what we read in Scripture about these days, they were days of corruption and evil upon the earth. It was a time of unparalleled wickedness as man kept getting further and further away from God's original design for him,

**Genesis 6:5-6 - "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."**

Jesus described the lawlessness of that generation and compared it to what the generation would be like just before His return. According to Jesus, they ate, they drank, they married, and they lived their lives apart from God and had no regard for His truth.

Compared to the culture around him, Enoch's life stood out in stark contrast. When an entire generation around him was bent on going its own way, Enoch walked with God. Enoch was a worshiper who lived for an audience of One. Someone has well said that difficult times call for devoted faith. These are difficult times unlike any that we have seen!

#### The CONVERSION of Enoch's life

The Bible says that after Enoch was 65 years old, he began to walk with the Lord. A close examination of the text will reveal that an event took place in Enoch's life that must have had a tremendous impact.

After the birth of his son, Methuselah, Enoch began to walk with God. Children will often have that kind of impact on a person. It is likely that God gave Enoch a special

message related to his son. All of this can be taken into consideration when you consider the meaning of his name in Hebrew:

**“Methuselah”** - *man of the javelin; two root words which literally mean when he is dead it shall be sent*

What would be sent?

**Warren Wiersbe** - *“If we make the creation of Adam year 1, and calculate the years recorded in Genesis 5, we discover that Methuselah was born in the year 687 from the creation of Adam. If we add 969 to 687, we get a total of 1656, the number of the year in which Methuselah died. If we continue our calculations, we discover that Noah was born in the year 1056 from the creation of Adam. Since Noah was 600 years old when the Flood came (Gen. 7:6), it means that the Flood came in the year 1656—the year that Methuselah died!”*

It could very well be that with the birth of his son, Enoch was given a warning from God that judgment was coming on the world of men. And perhaps it was this truth that gripped his heart and led to his worshipping faith.

The COMMITMENT of Enoch’s life

The Bible simply says that Enoch “walked” with God. The moment of faith led to the process of faithfulness. His faith in God was manifested through his walk with God.

**Amos 3:3 - “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”**

The idea is that two people can only walk together if they are headed in the same direction. Think about it—it would be impossible to walk together if two people had a different destination in mind. And, even if they had the same destination in mind but could not agree on how to get there, the two could not walk together. And, if the two agreed on the same destination, and even if they agreed on the same path, but if they did not agree on the same pace, then they could not walk together.

How do you walk with someone? Two people must be headed to the same PLACE, they must be traveling down the same PATH, and they must be traveling at the same PACE. Without these conditions, a mutual walk is impossible.

Walk along the same path:

Sometimes the pathway takes you across the mountains. Other times the pathway may take you through the valley. But no matter where the pathway leads, what matters is that you are walking with God. He will lead you in the way of life everlasting.

Walk at the same pace:

There will be times the pace is slow and agonizing, and at other times the pace will be brisk. Nevertheless, you keep on walking.

Walk to the same place:

We are marching to Zion, the beautiful city of God. We walk with God not on the basis of where we want to take Him, but on the basis of where He desires to lead us.

## **2. Enoch loved the LORD passionately**

He walked with God because the glory of God was the passion of his life. Hebrews says that before he was taken, he had this testimony that he pleased God. It means that he loved the Lord above everything else in his life.

There was one consuming passion—walking with God.

Enoch's walk lined up with Enoch's talk. If it didn't, then he would not have been walking with God. His faith resulted in a righteous life, which manifested itself in personal integrity. He had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Image is what people think we are. Integrity is what we really are. It is unfortunate that more people are concerned about their image than they are their integrity.

Enoch had a true worshiper's testimony. He lived to please God rather than men.

You and I face daily three possible motivations for life—we can please God, please ourselves, or please other people. Living to please oneself leads to an empty life. Living to please other people leads to a frustrated life. Living to please God alone leads to a satisfied life.

Enoch pleased the Lord because the Lord pleased Enoch.

This is the true worshiper's all-consuming desire--to honor and please God with his or her life.

**Hebrews 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."**

Since Enoch pleased the Lord, then we know that the truth of this verse was true of his life. At some point in his life he came to God simply believing that He "is." God was His reward.

God only rewards those who diligently seek Him in worship. To seek God means to desire Him with all of our heart. It means to focus our attention on Him and realize that nothing matters that is outside of God and His will for our lives.

God says much in Scripture about the priority of seeking Him:

**Proverbs 8:17 - "I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me diligently will find Me."**

**Jeremiah 29:13 - "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."**

Enoch's testimony was one of careful worship, not casual worship. He was not flippant.

"Walked with God" indicates that Enoch had a lifestyle characterized by his devotion to God. The usage of the word "walk" in Hebrew indicates a communion or intimacy with God.

This does not refer to an undue familiarity. Phillips Brooks once said that familiarity breeds contempt only with contemptible people or contemptible things. There is sometimes an undue familiarity with God that only proves that the worshiper doesn't really know God at all.

**A.W. Tozer** - *"No one can know the grace of God who has not first known the fear of God."*

The Bible often makes mention of the fact that God's servants are those who walk with Him, who pursue Him through an intimate relationship.

- Enoch (Genesis 5:24)
- Noah (Genesis 6:9)
- Abraham (Genesis 17:1; 24:40)
- Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 48:15)

All throughout Scripture, God's people are characterized by their walk with Him as opposed to those who do not know Him.

**Ephesians 2:2** - **"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air that is now at work in the sons of disobedience."**

Once a person is saved, the way they walk is radically different. They no longer walk according to the pattern of this world, but rather they walk in the grace of God and possess a vibrant relationship with Him through faith.

The Lord is very specific in Exodus that He redeemed His people and brought them out of Egypt so that they could walk with Him.

**Exodus 16:4** - **"Then the Lord said to Moses, Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not."**

**Leviticus 18:3-4 - “You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. You shall follow My rules and keep My statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God.”**

Walking with God involves living a life of obedience and submission to Him. Walking with God means that a believer follows His commands with all diligence.

As His people were faithful to obey, God promised:

**Leviticus 26:12 - “And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be My people.”**

The psalms often refer to the believer’s walk with God. David often mentions the necessity of walking in the law of the Lord or walking in the way of the Lord.

**Psalms 86:11 - “Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.”**

**Psalms 116:9 - “I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.”**

**Psalms 119:1 - “Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!”**

In Ezekiel 36, God spoke of the new covenant and how He would do a work of grace in the hearts of His people so that they might be able to walk with Him:

**Ezekiel 36:26-27 - “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules.”**

All throughout the New Testament, the Christian life is frequently referred to as a walk. For instance, consider passages such as:

**Romans 6:4 - “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”**

**Romans 8:4 - “Who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”**

**2 Corinthians 5:7 - “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”**

**2 Corinthians 6:16 - “For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make My dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”**

**Galatians 5:16 - “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”**

**Galatians 5:25 - “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”**

**Colossians 2:6 - “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”**

**1 John 1:7 - “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”**

Jesus says, “Follow Me.” This is the invitation of the gospel, and it is the essence of walking with God. To worship God is to walk with God, and this is so much more than a song. It shows us how worship is a lifestyle.

Worship is the believer’s response of all that they are—mind, emotions, will, and body—to who God is and what God says and does. It is rooted in the fear of God and deepened through a walk with God.

### **3. Enoch left his LEGACY powerfully**

Enoch lived his life on purpose and loved the Lord with passion, and this is the legacy that he left behind in a powerful way.

His walk with God was what he became known for.

What will people say about you five minutes after you are gone? The only thing that matters is often the most neglected.

**James Moffatt** - *“Death is never the last word in the life of a righteous man. When a man leaves this world, be he righteous or unrighteous, he leaves something in the world. He may leave something that will grow and spread like a cancer or a poison, or he may leave something like the fragrance of perfume or a blossom of beauty that permeates the atmosphere with blessing.”*

Enoch’s walk with God is the legacy that he left behind.

**Charles Spurgeon** - *“It is implied, also, in this phrase that his life was progressive, for if a man walks either by himself or with anybody else, he makes progress, he goes forward. Enoch walked with God. At the end of 200 years he was not where he began. He was in the same Company, but he had gone forward in the right way. At the end of the third hundred years Enoch enjoyed more, understood more, loved more, had received more and could give out more, for he had gone forward in all respects. A man who walks with God will necessarily grow in grace and in the knowledge of God and in the likeness of Christ. You cannot suppose a perpetual walk with God, year after year, without the favored person being strengthened, sanctified, instructed and rendered more able to glorify God.”*

Enoch’s walk with God led to his witness for God.

**Hebrews 11:5** - **“...for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”**

Before he left this world, he had a testimony of worship that resulted in his witness to his culture.

**Psalm 23:4** - **“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.”**

The Father’s presence makes all the difference. No matter where the pathway may lead, there is security in Him.

After 300 years of worshiping and walking with God, the Bible says that God simply took him.

**Genesis 5:24 - “Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.”**

**“Took”** - *the word in Hebrew means to fetch, to take away, to remove*

**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.”**

**“Taken”** - *word in Greek means to carry across; word was used to describe the deportation of prisoners of war to another land*

Enoch had found the answer that solved the ultimate problem of man--death. The truth is that until a person has learned to die, that person has not learned to live. Amazingly enough, Enoch did not die. He had been walking with God for so many years that his transfer to heaven wasn't even an interruption to his life.

Enoch walked God so long and for so far that it is almost as if God said to him, “Enoch, you've come too far to go back. Come on home with Me.”

**Colossians 3:1-2 - “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”**

In Valladolid, Spain, where Christopher Columbus died in 1506, stands a monument commemorating the great discoverer. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the memorial is a statue of a lion destroying one of the Latin words that had been part of Spain's motto for centuries. Before Columbus made his voyages, the Spaniards thought they had reached the outer limits of earth. Thus their motto was “Ne Plus Ultra,” which in Latin means “No More Beyond.” The word being torn away by the lion is “Ne” or “no,” making it read “Plus Ultra.” Columbus had proven that there was indeed “more beyond.”

We learn from Enoch that there is indeed “more beyond” our brief journey in this life. The Bible says of Enoch that God “took him.” Enoch’s life and translation is a fitting illustration of what awaits the church.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 - “For the Lord Himself will descend with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”**

For Enoch, heaven wasn’t that much of an adjustment.

Enoch spent his life living for what truly mattered, his passionate love for God led him to worship and walk with God, and the powerful legacy he left behind is worth emulating. Such a walk with God is possible only through repentance and faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.