

## People of Faith: Enoch

**“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.**

**By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.**

**By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.**

**By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”** (Hebrews 11:1-6 NIV)

**...without faith it is impossible to please God** (Hebrews 11:6). And this evening we begin a series looking at some people of faith. People who are commended in Hebrews 11, people of whom it is said in Hebrews 12

**“...since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...”** (Hebrews 12:1 NIV)

These people are there with God watching us run the race of life, the race of faith. So this evening we are looking at a man of faith who does not get a lot of airing. It is the second name mentioned in the list in Hebrews which stretches from Abel to Samuel as named people with others added without their names being given, like Daniel as it says **“...who shut the mouths of lions,”** (Hebrews 11:33 NIV).

So this evening we look at Enoch. Enoch who is first mentioned in Genesis, Genesis 5. You might like to turn to Genesis 5, page 7. Genesis 5 is one of those passages that most people pass over, the who fathered whom bit. It is just a list of names, their ages and the principle son. But let us pick up the list at verse 18

**“When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. And after he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.**

**When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.”** (Genesis 5:18-24 NIV)

Although I said that Genesis 5 is the first mention of Enoch, that is not quite true. So let us go back in history. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman on earth had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain killed Abel and then Cain was exiled and married, we do not know whom, but it could have been a sister and they had a son called Enoch. Cain was so pleased that we read

**“...Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch.”** (Genesis 4:17 NIV)

A nice thing for a father to do for his son. Then Enoch went on to have Irad and Irad, Mehujael, and then there was Methushael and then we get to Lamech. Lamech is interesting in the fact that he is the first bigamist recorded in the Bible and he also like Cain was a murderer, he even boasts about it

**“Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times.”**

(Genesis 4:23-24 NIV)

But this is not the branch of the family that we are interested in, this is not the Enoch that is mentioned in the book of Hebrews because Adam and Eve had another son, Seth who then went on to be the ancestor of Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Noah, who had three sons we hear about, Shem, Ham and Japheth.

This is the Enoch mentioned in Hebrews 11 and also in 1 Chronicles 1:3 which is even more of a list than Genesis 5 and Luke 3 when Luke goes through the genealogy of Jesus and finally Jude 1:14, where it says

**“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones”** (Jude 1:14 NIV)

But if we look at the list we count that Enoch is only the sixth son, but we have to include Adam in the counting as the Jews were into inclusive counting so you always began with number 1, not as we do with the zero. So counting Adam as 1, Enoch become number 7.

But, as you can see there is not a lot about Enoch, but we can tell quite a bit about Enoch from the little we read of him.

We read of him in Genesis that he

Walked With God

This is mentioned twice, firstly in verse 22 and then in verse 24.

**“And after Enoch became the father of Methuselah, *Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*”**

(Genesis 5:22-24 NIV)

There is only one other man about whom the Bible says the same thing.

**“This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.”** (Genesis 6:9 NIV)

David was called a man after God’s own heart, but Enoch and Noah are the only two who are said to have walked with God.

What does this mean? To walk with God. Let us turn to the book of Amos which asks the question

**“Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”** (Amos 3:3 NIV)

And of course the answer is that they cannot walk together unless they agree. Enoch could not have walked with God unless there was agreement between them. There was fellowship between God and Enoch.

This walk was a way of life, walk in the Bible often means 'way of life' and so when we are told to walk in the Spirit, it means to live a holy, spiritual life. In Galatians we read

**“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious:**

**sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft;**

**hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy;**

**drunkenness, orgies, and the like.**

This is the sandwich where so many look at the two outer layers, but forget the inner layer, the filling also applies to us as well.

**I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.**

**Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”** (Galatians 5:19-25 NIV)

Or as another translation puts it

**It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time:**

**repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion;**

**paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival;**

**uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community.**

**I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.**

**But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard--things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good--crucified.**

**Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.** (Galatians 5:19-25 MSG)

We need to align our wills to the will of God. I need to know what God's will is and then go for it and then I can be said to be walking with God. We learn God's will by reading his Word, the Bible, by studying it with others. But it is no good just learning it, just studying it, we have to obey it, we have to do it.

At one time in this country we had a code for crossing the road which was called the kerb drill

**Look right, look left, look right again, if all clear quick march**

But this was banned and changed to the Green Cross Code of

**THINK FIRST.**

**STOP.**

**USE YOUR EYES AND EARS.**

**WAIT UNTIL IT'S SAFE TO CROSS.**

**LOOK AND LISTEN.**

**ARRIVE ALIVE.**

Find the safest place to cross, then stop.

Stand on the pavement near the kerb.

Look all around for traffic, and listen.

If traffic is coming, let it pass.

When it's safe, walk straight across the road.

Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross.

Why was it changed? Because children were going up to the edge of the pavement, saying

**Look right, look left, look right again, if all clear quick march**

And the walking straight across and getting killed by vehicles. They knew the words but were not following the instructions and so many Christians read the Bible, but do not follow the instruction, do not obey all of it. They do not walk with God, except on the bits they agree with.

So Enoch walked with God and he then we read

**“Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.”**  
(Genesis 5:24 NIV)

Hebrews puts it like this

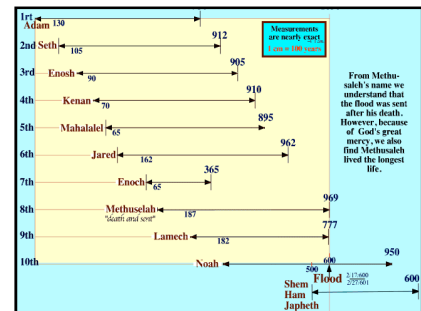
**“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.”** (Hebrews 11:5 NIV)

The only other person, besides Jesus, that this happen to was Elijah. For Elijah we read

**“As Elijah and Elisha were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart.”** (2 Kings 2:11-12 NIV)

Enoch’s departure was as little less spectacular it seems. God wanted him so much that he did not want Enoch to experience death. That does not mean that his family did not experience the loss, but for Enoch he went straight from earth to heaven.

However there is one more thing to note about Enoch. Many years ago now, I read Genesis 5 and then put on a timeline all the people from Adam to Noah and it looks something like this.



Note that Noah could have played with his father, his grandfather, his great grandfather, his great, great grandfather, his great, great, great grandfather and even his great, great, great, great, great grandfather. And also note that all of them died off before the flood occurred. But that is a side issue.

Enoch as you can see died when he was 365 years old, and his son lived until he was 969 years old, the oldest man in the bible. We then link this with Exodus 20:12 which reads

**“Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”** (Exodus 20:12 NIV)

The only commandment with a promise. For parents though to be honoured, it is a lot easier if they are honourable and Enoch was certainly honourable – he walked with God – it had to be. So Methuselah had someone who was very easy to honour and is this the reason perhaps why he lived a long time? I leave you that question but it does mean that we should all live with God and in that way it is easy for people to honour us, to respect us, being the word of the moment, to be righteous and right in all our dealings with people, to treat people in a right way with the right attitude because we walk with God.

Could the description of Enoch be given to you? The only person who can change that is you by submitting yourself to God, to his Spirit and learning from him.