



Walking By Faith

Genesis 5:18-24

- I want you to think for a moment about one word. What comes to mind when you consider the word legacy?
- Maybe you think about an institution that has been instrumental in your life and the lives of others. There is a legacy that is passed down.
- Maybe you think about leaders in history and the influence they had over the people that they led.
- We should all consider our legacy. What will we leave behind? When all is said and done, what will we be known for by those who knew us best?

- There will come a time when we can change or modify our legacy. What is done will be done, and if we believe in the Lord Jesus, we will transfer on to glory.
- But what about those who we leave behind. What will they remember? How will our lives impact theirs for the Lord?
- Enoch is recorded in Genesis 5 as a man who “walked faithfully with God.” Is there anything else that could be a greater legacy than that? Could you imagine the epitaph on a tombstone that simply stated those words about a man’s life? ***He walked faithfully with God.***
- Paul mentions Enoch as one of these people who trusted in the Lord, and God rewarded him for his faith.

Main Point: We can learn how to walk faithfully with the Lord by looking at Enoch.

- When we talk about stepping out in faith, there are a lot of things we could address. Our personal finances, how we are parenting our children, a necessary job change or life transition.
- But all of the major circumstances of life, and how we respond to them, comes down to one thing – our personal walk with the Lord. Before we talk about a public platform, we have to address our private devotion.
- There are principles from Enoch’s life that we can learn from and apply to our lives.

I. The sovereignty of God

- a. One lesson about the sovereignty of God is concerning what described here.
- b. One of the first things that becomes obvious in this passage is the unique nature of the time that Enoch and others lived in.

- c. Before the flood, there is a period recorded in Genesis 5 where people lived for hundreds of years. What happened after the flood is what's known as a genetic bottleneck where the population of humans on earth was reduced essentially to Noah and his family.
- d. As the human population began to expand again after the flood, the average age of humans was reduced.
- e. This is not beyond the realm of possibility, scientifically speaking. The Galapagos Tortoise can live up to 150-200 years old. The Greenland Shark can live between 200-500 years. Some deep-sea sponges live over 1,000 years.
- f. But this is a good reminder of the faith that is required as we approach the Bible. When we read stories like this, we should be reminded that God is sovereign, and we are not. I believe God's Word is true because I have trusted in Him as my Lord and Savior. I come to His Word in faith. Every part of it.

II. The goal of consistency

- a. Think about this – Enoch was alive for 365 years, and He walked with the Lord for that long.
- b. I mean, he didn't become a father until 65. I'm only 35, and if we had another child – it would be a blessing – But I would have to be honest and say that I'm tired.
- c. They weren't immune from the effects of a fallen world. They couldn't retire. They worked and lived. He was probably married for three hundred years to the same person. They faced difficulty – famine, relationship struggles, threats to

their livelihood. That's a long time to walk with the Lord and trust in what He's doing.

- d. It illustrates the need for endurance and consistency.
- e. *We don't live this long anymore – but it's still true – Our walk of faith is a marathon, not a sprint.*
- f. If there is one thing I would admonish younger generations about it would be this – The small habits over a long period of time is what matters most in life. Not everything is going to be an exciting of life-changing experience. Focus on small acts of faith over a long period of time.

III. The result of faith

- a. What is clear from this passage and what the writer of Hebrews mentioned about Enoch is that Enoch didn't see death. Instead, he was taken up by God into Heaven as a reward for his faith.
- b. Remember the context here – Genesis 6 describes a period in time that was greatly fallen. This sinfulness ultimately led God to flood the whole earth. And yet, Enoch stayed faithful to the Lord in the middle of a very fallen period of time.
- c. Here's the lesson – God will reward us for our faithfulness if we just stay consistent.
 - i. **Matthew 17:20 (NIV):**
 - ii. "He replied, 'Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.'"

iii. **James 1:12 (NIV):**

iv. "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

v. **1 Peter 1:6–7 (NIV):**

vi. "In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith... may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

- d. The most important reminder from this passage is that Enoch's story is a foretelling of what is to come for us. Enoch was taken up at the end of his journey of faith.
- e. We will be taken up one way or another.