

"The Walk of Faith"

Part 5

Hebrews 11:1-40

Introduction: Tonight in our study of Hebrews we have returned to chapter 11 and it is in this chapter that the writer is dealing with the subject of faith. It was the writer's desire to encourage the Hebrew believers to move forward in their faith as they faced trials and persecution in their lives. He has presented this 11th chapter so as to show his readers how to LIVE by faith. He trusts that they have been SAVED by faith and now they needed to learn to LIVE by faith. Therefore, in this 11th chapter the writer has set out to present to his Hebrew readers the examples of many in the Old Testament who chose to LIVE by faith. In Hebrews 11:1-3 the writer defined faith and he explained how faith was already at work in the lives of the Hebrew believers. He then moves on and looks to the Old Testament for examples of living by faith.

I. The Examples of Faith

Part 3

Now the last time we were together we were in Hebrews 11:4-7 and it is here that the writer points to 3 people from the pre-flood era and each person shows faith in a different area of life.

1. **Abel - The worship of faith.**
2. **Enoch - The walk of faith.**
3. **Noah - The work of faith.**

In verse 4 the writer took us back to Genesis 4 and he stepped his readers into the life of Abel where they were permitted to see how faith must be exercised in worship. This now brings us to where we are today.

2. Enoch - The walk of faith.

Notice Hebrews 11:5

There are several pictures found in the life of Enoch in which we can apply to our lives but there is one major view which the Holy Spirit has in mind for us in Hebrews 11. We will take a look at each of the views and then we shall focus upon the picture God desires for us to see.

Here are the 3 pictures which can be seen in the life of Enoch.

1. Past Picture
2. Present Picture
3. Future Picture

Let us take some time and consider each one of these.

- A. **The past picture** - In this picture there are some very good practical lessons which are applicable to our lives today. In order to grasp onto these we must take the time to consider what was going on in Enoch's day.

Jude 1:14-15

¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

¹⁵ 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.

The first thing I want you to notice is the word which Enoch used to describe the people of his day. He used the word "ungodly" 4 times as he looked around in his day. It is repeated here 4 times and it seems to be the only word which came to Enoch's mind as he looked around in his day. Now to get a little better view of this there is something else said about Enoch here; Jude tells us in verse 14 that Enoch was the 7th from Adam. He was the 7th from Adam in the line of Seth.

Now let me show you the 7th from Adam in the line of Cain.

Genesis 4:17-18

¹⁷ And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch; and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.

¹⁸ And unto Enoch was born Irada; and Irada begat Mehujael; and Mehujael begat Methusael; and Methusael begat Lamech.

If we start counting with Adam we then find that Lamech is the 7th from Adam. Now let me show you what Moses wrote concerning Lamech.

Genesis 4:23-24

²³ *And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.*

²⁴ *If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.*

Lamech had 2 wives, he was a murderer and he mocked God. He is a picture of what society was like in Enoch's day.

Now let us get back to the book of Hebrews.

Notice Hebrews 11:5

Enoch's life was so pleasing to God that one day God took him from the face of the earth. Enoch never had to experience death. I love the explanation which Ray Stedman gives from a little girl in Sunday school. She said,

"Enoch was a man who learned to walk with God, and they used to take long walks together. One day they walked so far that God said, 'Look, Enoch, it's too far for you to go back; just come home with me.' So he walked on home with God."

The fruit of Enoch's faith was to be translated from this world into Paradise. There are 2 points about Enoch in this verse that we need to see.

1. We are told that "he was not found".

This is an interesting statement. After Enoch was translated he was missed and those of his day searched for him.

2. He had a testimony that he pleased God.

Enoch was a man who refused to blend in with his society. He stood for God and as the current of society flowed in the direction of rebellion against God Enoch resisted the flow and he stood for the righteousness of God. It was not until he was translated that his society missed him. They knew what Enoch stood for and when he was gone he was missed. He had a testimony in his day that he "pleased" God.

Now we need to understand that it was the "FAITH" of Enoch which pleased God and it was his "Faith" testified as he lived his life in the midst of his society. Enoch was a man who "lived by faith". He stood for God in the face of opposition and he was able to do so because he FULLY trusted God. He had faith in God's PROMISES, POWER and PROVISIONS. He was not afraid to stand up in his society and call out sin. He was not

afraid to warn people of God's coming judgment. He would stand no matter the cost because he knew that God would keep him in life and in death if that would be the cost. This man's faith was so great that God chose to take him from the sinful society of his day.

Application:

There is a great lesson for us in all of this. As we stand for God in the midst of the darkness we can be sure that the stand we take and the faith which we exercise will have an influence upon the society around us. We may not see the results on this side of eternity but we can be sure that God will use our faith to impact the people around us. This is why it is so important that we walk by faith. If we walk through this life in worry and fear we are then blending in with the society around us and we are hiding the EVIDENCE of the promises of God.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Enoch was a man who held the EVIDENCE of God's promises up for all to see in his day and he may not have ever seen any results but as we read in Hebrews we can be sure that many lives were impacted by the faith of this dear man.

Therefore, we must walk by faith and trust God as we stand for Him in the midst of the darkness. We must be sure that our families and our friends see our faith and we must then trust that God will use our faith to impact the lives of those whom we share this world with.

B. The future picture - I am skipping over the present picture because I want us to see the prophetic picture in the life of Enoch first.

Enoch is a picture of the Rapture of the church. He was taken out of the world before the judgment of God fell upon the face of the earth in the form of rain. Let me show you what Jesus said to the church of Philadelphia in Revelation 3.

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

1 Thessalonians 1:10

¹⁰ *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

1 Thessalonians 5:9

⁹ *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

We could go into Revelation and there we would see that the Tribulation is referred to as the wrath of God. So Enoch is a picture of the Rapture of the church.

C. The present picture - This is what the Holy Spirit desires for us to see in the Enoch's life pertaining to Hebrews 11:5.

There is an absolutely beautiful picture in the life of Enoch that pertains to us at this present time. First of all we must pay attention to the order here in Hebrews. Abel is presented first, then Enoch and then Noah. This is not just a chronological order. Abel is a picture of our salvation. He trusted in the lamb as his substitute just as we trust in Jesus Christ as our Substitute. Enoch then becomes a picture of our New Life in Christ. Enoch was translated and he never experienced death. Let me show you what the Bible says concerning you and me after we have been saved.

Colossians 1:12-13

¹² *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

¹³ *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

This speaks of our POSITION in Jesus Christ and it is pictured in the translation of Enoch.

Abel teaches us how the life of faith begins (by trusting in the Substitute who died in our place). Enoch teaches us what the life of faith consists of (it is walking by faith in God every single day).

Now just as Enoch was translated that he should not see death so the same can be said of each of us who know Jesus Christ. But I am not speaking here of physical death but **spiritual death.**

John 5:24

²⁴ *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; **but is passed from death unto life.***

1 John 3:14

¹⁴ ***We know that we have passed from death unto life,** because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

You and I have passed from death unto life and we shall NEVER experience spiritual death which is separation from God.

So now we live this NEW LIFE in Christ which is the TRANSLATED LIFE or otherwise known as the RESURRECTION LIFE. This life is lived only by faith. It is faith in the promises and the power of God. It is this life of faith which allows us to gain victory as we pass through this world.

Romans 6:4-11

⁴ *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

⁵ *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

⁸ *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

⁹ *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

¹⁰ *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Conclusion:

We will get back to this again next week. Let me get your mind back to the Hebrew believers. This was the TRUTH which they needed to grasp onto. They were living defeated Christian lives. They were walking in the power of the flesh and therefore they were not growing, they had not entered into the rest which God had for them, and the resurrection power within them was not being accessed.

The Holy Spirit really wanted them to see the picture which was seen in the translation of Enoch so that they could learn to live by faith. They too had been translated from death unto life but they were not living as such. It is sad but the same is true of many believers today. This is what the Holy Spirit desires for us to learn for this is the key to the Christian life.