

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon Title: The Faith of Enoch [part of The Hall of Faith Series], Hebrews 11

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INTRODUCTION: As we continue in the “Hall of Faith Series,” today, we’ll examine the life of Enoch. There are three main points I want you to learn about the man called Enoch:

1. Enoch was the original prayer walker.
2. Enoch’s testimony explained where he went.
3. Enoch’s walk of faith carried over to his great grandson.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:5 ⁵ *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.*

Enoch is also mentioned in Genesis.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 5:18-24 ¹⁸ *When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹ After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰ Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.*

²¹ *When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²² After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years.*

²⁴ *Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*

- He is mentioned again in Luke 3:37 in a genealogy study
- He is mentioned here in Hebrews 11.
- And, he’s mentioned again in Jude, verses 14 and 15.

Many years after Enoch and about 300 years before Jesus came, a group of translators translated the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. When they got to this passage, they used the phrase “God took him” along with the verb *meta-tith-emi*, meaning “moving from one place to another.” Later, it was translated into English the way we have it.

Enoch is one of the few people in the Bible who did not experience death. There are several things I want you to know about Enoch.

First, ENOCH WAS THE ORIGINAL PRAYER WALKER.

We read several times Enoch walked with God.

ILLUSTRATION: A few years ago, the term “prayer walking” became popular. It was talked about as if it were some type of new thing...walking and praying. Occasionally, I’ll read where a mission team went to some city in the U.S. or overseas, and they “prayer walked.” When I heard about prayer walking, I asked someone what it was. The person said, “You pray while you walk.”

EXPLANATION: But, prayer walking is nothing new. Enoch did it a long time ago. Enoch walked with God. And, one day, on one of his walks, he was closer to God than he was to people, so God just took him home to be with him. People searched for him, and he could not be found.

The Bible uses the word “walk” numerous times to indicate spiritual meaning. It indicates a person having a relationship with God, walking with Jesus, and walking in the Spirit.

And, walking as a spiritual metaphor is mentioned in the songs we sing:

ILLUSTRATION: The songs we sing about “the walk”—

- Walking in sunlight, all of my journey
- And he walks with me, and he talks with me

- Just a closer walk with thee
- We will follow the steps of Jesus, where e'er they go
- Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus, anywhere, everywhere, I will follow on

APPLICATION: So, we know, walking with God means a continual moving forward, one step at a time, a lifelong relationship, which has a starting point and no ending.

Second, ENOCH'S TESTIMONY EXPLAINED WHERE HE WENT.

While preparing this message, I thought about Enoch's testimony as a believer. I do not believe we have any scripture which gives an eye witness account of Enoch being taken by God. But, his walk of faith with God was so strong that when he could not be found, people just knew God had taken him. The Bible says before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God...and apparently, everyone knew he pleased God, because—think about it—the day he could not be found, people knew what happened because there was no other possible answer.

ILLUSTRATION: Pardon me this if it sounds cliché, but it is true: Do you realize you preach your own funeral with the way you live? I wish I'd kept up with all the funerals I've attended and preached through the years. Eulogy means "good words," and many times, a funeral has two parts, the "eulogy" and the sermon. Depending on the situation, there may be a eulogy and not much of a sermon or a sermon and not much of a eulogy. The best case scenario is one of balance. That is, a person's life had enough content that you can intermingle the eulogy and the sermon.

EXPLANATION: With Enoch, he preached his own sermon with his life and in the end, his funeral was simply, "He walked with God, and God took him." Everyone knew what had happened. Wow, what an incredible living testimony.

ILLUSTRATION: If you don't mind, I'll take a bit of a poetic license and tell you how I understand this story in my mind's eye. I am going to combine the verb of walking with the spiritual metaphor of walking with God. I picture people in a community who all know each other. Enoch, being an old man, knew everyone and

was known by everyone. I can see Enoch now as he goes on one of his walks. People say, “There goes Enoch. You know he walks with God.” Someone else says, “Yep, and someday he’s going for a walk and is never coming back.”

Third, ENOCH’S WALK OF FAITH CARRIED OVER TO HIS GREAT GRANDSON.

EXPLANATION: Enoch had a son named Methuselah. Methuselah had a son named Lamech. Lamech had a son named Noah. Years later, it would be Noah who had such a close walk with God, and God would lead him to preach repentance to all people while he built the ark. No doubt, the testimony of great-grandpa Enoch was still alive in Noah’s mind as he preached and labored every day. He knew what God was capable of. He knew where his grandpa was, and he also believed God. Through him, God saved humanity.

And, then you’ll see Noah is the next person listed in the Hebrews Hall of Faith.

Now, let’s go back to the purpose of Hebrews 11 and its mention of Enoch and others:

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:6 ⁶ *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.*

APPLICATION: Faith is the enemy of fear. And, those with faith are who please God. So, we must always be exploring new faith challenges in our lives. If you want to please God, take a step of faith.

CONCLUSION: Now, the Bible tells us there will be others who do not experience death.

SCRIPTURE: I Thessalonians 4:15-17 says, ¹⁵ *According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.* ¹⁶ *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and*

with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

APPLICATION: You know, it is very possible people right here this morning, and people watching by television, could be those who never die. However, there is a prerequisite: Like Enoch, you must walk with God.

I ask you, how is your walk with the Lord today? Do you have a walk with him? Is it a walk of faith, like that of Enoch? Maybe you need to start walking with God. It begins with the first step. It begins with the first step of faith, saying, "I'll start this journey right now with the first step." I've found if we take the first step, he walks the rest of the way with us. Other believers here today will tell you the same thing.

CONCLUSION: Let's go to the Lord in prayer.

Dear God, we ask you to help our lack of faith. Help us to be people of faith. Help us to learn from the example of Enoch who walked with God. For those today who've not taken the first step of faith in following Jesus as Lord and Savior, please quicken their hearts today. In Christ's name, Amen.

Look at me, please. By faith, you can know this God that Enoch knew. God provided a way for people of today to know him through Jesus. Right now, where you are, surrender. Let go of your pride. Let go of your resistance. Tell God you'll take the first step of faith today. Several of us will be down front to receive you and pray for you today.

Others may already know Jesus, and you may want to join us in church membership. This is how we do it. We ask you to come forward and profess Jesus.

Let's stand together as Terry leads us.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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Sincerely, Paul Gunn
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