

Title: The Faith of Enoch
Text: Hebrews 11:5-6

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to the book of Hebrews. Hebrews chapter 11. For the past few weeks we have been studying about the issue of faith. In verses 1-3 we find a short explanation of faith. Faith is not being defined, here. But, faith is being explained as to how it works and operates. In fact, this whole ^{11th} chapter is telling us what will happen in a person's life if he really has faith.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT A PERSON HAS FAITH?.....Answer:....He will do something to demonstrate that faith. And that is what we are looking at in all of these examples of faith that we find here in chapter 11,

Last week we looked at ^{Ab} Abel and why his sacrifice was better than Cain proving that he was a man of faith. He did what God required, in other words.

Tonight, we want to come to Hebrews chapter 11 and verses 5 and 6. And the example of Enoch.

Read Hebrews 11:5-6

Prayer

THE EXAMPLE OF ENOCH. What did Enoch do which proved he was a man of faith? The thing that he did is kind of interesting. The text doesn't really give us a specific, except that he walked with God. And that he pleased God. That he had this testimony. And as a result God actually took him to heaven. ^{But what did he do?} Now, let me try and explain this passage to you.

(1E) First of all, let's understand his translation. ~~WHAT IS THAT?~~ The Bible says that Enoch was "taken up" or "Translated." "So, that he should not see death."

The words "taken up" means that he was literally removed from one place to another. It means to be moved or transferred to another location.

So, Enoch was transferred from the location of the earth to the location of heaven

I would like you to see the circumstance relating to this transfer. Would you turn to the Book of Genesis chapter 5. Take your Bibles and turn to Genesis chapter 5. [In listing the geneologies of these early men from Adam onward, we come down to Vs 21 and learn about Enoch who was a son of Jared. Jared the second oldest man that had ever lived. He was 962 years old. And Enoch's son, Methuselah, was the oldest man who had ever lived. He ~~was~~ lived 969 years.

In Vs 21 it says: "And Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. -----Read Vs 22-24

Now it says that Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

one In Hebrews 11:5 it says that Enoch pleased God. It doesn't use the words "walked with God". So, one might ask: is there an meaning in the different terms?

come back to **No**, there is not difference. **For to please God is to Walk with God.**

Now, ~~in~~ Hebrews 11, in these examples of Faith, they show us that each man did something that proved he had faith. But, God eventually takes Enoch home by simply saying that he has been walking with God, he has a life that is pleasing to him, and the question in my mind is: IN WHAT SENSE DOES ENOCH TEACH YOU AND ME THAT HE REALLY HAD FAITH?

You might say: "Well, because he walked with God his whole life."

But, how do I know he did?

All the other examples here in Hebrews 11, did something. What about Enoch? *what did He do To prove He was a man of faith*

Now I would like to suggest to you that the Bible teaches that Enoch did do something that proves he did have faith in the Lord.

~~well~~ the thing that he did was that he had a son whom he named Methuselah.

You say: "BIG DEAL"...A lot of people have sons..So what does that prove?

The word "Methuselah" is an indication of Enoch's faith in what God had told him was going to happen in the world.... *That God was going to*

~~judge the world~~ the word "Methuselah" in Hebrews in two ways *judge The World*

How do I know that?...The word "Methuselah" in Hebrew is two words combined. One..Meaning "when he dies." And the other meaning "it shall come". So, if you put the words together, Methuselah's name means "When he dies, it shall come."

It is very fascinating to me that the year Methuselah died is the same year that the Genesis flood occurred.

Now, you say: Hay, wait a minute, ~~it~~ ^{PASTIN} it doesn't say that Enoch had all that information. How do you know that he knew that God told him that there was going to be a judgment on the world.....HOW DO I KNOW?..... THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO....

Turn to the Book of Jude....The book of Jude... Jude comes right before that Great book "Revelation." The last book of the N.T.

Jude..look down at Vs 14....Enoch, ~~do~~ believe had revelation communicated to him by God that he then in turn acted upon it, and proved that he had faith

Vs 14: "And about these."....Now, what are the "these?".....The "these" are referring to the whole opening section, Vs 1-13 that is dealing with false teachers, who, according to Vs 4, ~~kept~~ ^{crept} in unnoticed and were ungodly persons who turned the grace of God into sexual immority and they deny the only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Now, Vs 14... (Read 14-16)

Boy, that is quite a statement.

~~But~~ ^{Now} when you and I read Vs 14: "behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones," we right away advance our minds into the return of Christ and we say: "Enoch was preaching the second coming of Christ."

But that is not right. Because, and please notice the word "Came" is in the past tense. It has already happened.... (Vs 14)

Well, when did the Lord come in the past with thousands of his ^{Holy ones} saints and execute judgment?....

Now, first of all the word "holy Ones" or "saints" as it is often translated can refer to angels or to men. ~~it is not "believer"~~

It is not "believers" coming in the future, but angles who executed the judgment of God. *Because Angles execute Judgment Not men*

Examples: Sodom and Gomorrah, which is mentioned here in Jude. Another example: the flood...

So, What Enoch is saying is that God gave him revelation that he was going to judge the world. And he knew that the Lord was going to come with thousands of his angles, and would excute judgment on the world..

The Bible says so. *How* If you believe it refers to men, there is no other passage which teaches that believers are going to excute judgment in the world when the Lord comes. We certainly will come with Jesus. But it is angels who excute the judgment.

So, Enoch preached that the Lord ~~came~~ *was coming* with ten thousand of his holy ones. *and* From the point of Jude, it is looked at as a past event. It has already occured. And he is referring to the Flood...

And so, when Enoch heard this information, he named his ~~son~~ *son* METHUSELAH.. "When he dies, it will come." So, the very naming of Methuselah is an evidence that Enoch believed God and what God told him.

Then the pastern of his life from age 65 until age 365, for 300 years Enoch had this testimony "That he constantly pleased God. And, therefore, God translated him and took him to heaven.

why? Now, back to Hebrews 11. Enoch is an example of one who had faith. Because he had received revelation, in the same way ~~that~~ Noah received it in the next verse. Excitely the way Abel received it in Vs 4. They received direct revelation from God before any scripüre was ever written.

And they were responsibly, then, to demônstrate that they truely believed what God had said. *They acted upon The Reveleation They received and proved they were man of fact*

The same way, my friends, when we have the Bible which is God written revelation to us, we are ask to do something about what we say we believe.

In other words, *if we* say *we* believe that ~~Jesus Christ died for our sins.~~ *In The Power and leading of the* I believe that he arose from the dead. *Then* **WE MUST ACT UPON WHAT WE SAY WE BELIEVE.**

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Enoch acted and he named his son and proved that he believed God's revelation about the coming judgment which happened in the time of Noah.

(2E) Now, secondly, let's look at ~~God's~~ testimony which is simply explained at the end of Vs 5: "he was pleasing to God."....How was he pleasing to God? Vs 6 tells us how. "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 seek him." *A Complex, Deep Law*

(1A) First of-all there is a basic requirement, here, for everyone of us. Without faith it is impossible to please God? Do you really believe that?

You know, most of us are trying to prove the exact opposite. Most of us are trying to prove by our works and the things we do, by our performance, our practice, that some how that pleases God. But, that which really pleases God is the outworking of FAITH.

If you are doing things in order to find favor and to be pleasing to God, the Bible says that is totally impossible.

You must believe. You cannot work your way into God's pleasure. And apart from operating our lives on Faith there is no way that anyone of us can please God.

By the way, the little word "impossible" literally means "no power. Or, "no ability to do it". You and I have no ability, no matter how hard we try, no matter how many good things we say we have done in our life, we have no ability whatsoever to please a Holy God. *Now*

We need faith in what God does in our lives. Not confidence in what we do. Without or apart from faith, it is impossible to please God.

That goes for believers, also. Because you see, I believe Hebrews 11 is written primarily to believers. It is instruction to us.

So, in living the Christian life, ~~we~~ must remember that it is not by the little things ~~we~~ do, that ~~we~~ are acceptable to God. The things ~~we~~ do are the results of what ~~we~~ say ~~we~~ believe. If ~~we~~ say ~~we~~ believe in the Power of God to accomplish all things, then ~~we~~ will act upon that belief. It is faith and confidence in God that makes ~~us~~ pleasing to the Lord in what ~~we~~ do....

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So often I find that we are tested in this matter of Faith. Do we really believe God.. Do we have faith and confidence in what God can do? Or, do we roll up our sleeves and do it and then say Lord, you ought to be pleased with what I have done.

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Or, is what we are doing the product of saying, I believe God is going to do this...Therefore, I respond to what he tells me in his Word, and do it. Not because I believe doing is making me pleasing to God, but because I believe that what God says is correct and right and true. I already accept it as being the authority and revelation of God.

This is a very important principle.

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You know, I find a lot of people are doing things that we think we ought to be doing, but they don't have faith in God that it is the right thing to do...They do it, in order to please someone else, or so that people willn't think bad of them, or to have a good reputation, instead of just believing that it is God's ~~Word~~ WORD....

So, WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD.....

(2F) Now, there are two reasons given for this in Vs 6...

(1G) (1.) Number one is, "he who comes to God must believe that he is ."

The first reason that ~~Paul~~ ^{Paul} gives ^{us} about this principle without faith it is impossible to please him is because the very reality of God's existence is known only by faith.

The very reality of God's existence is known ~~only~~ by faith. You and I if we are to please God, we must begin by believe that God really exist. ~~He does exist.~~

I heard a little statement that really stuck in my mind...If you really believe that God exist, how much are you studying the fact of his existence?

It ~~is~~ a challenge to people who say that believe God exist, but do not give any time to the study of the Word of God.

It was a challenge to me...How much time do I spend learning about the God I say I believe in. HE WHO COMES TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS...

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You see, all of our faith really is just alot of talk, unless behind it is the eternal God that we know exist. Faith has the object of God, himself. That is why when I come to the Word of God and apply it, I must believe that it is God's Word...HIS WORD...HE IS BEHIND IT. HIS VERY EXISTENCE...

And therefore, his word is powerful. It is sharper than any two edged sword. It is right and I am wrong . And I must line my life and attitudes and motives up with the principles of God's Word.....And the Bible is God's Word to me..... This is very important.

(2G) And, the second reason he gives for this in Vs 6 is because the response from God to us is based upon Faith. Notice, he says at the end of Verse 6: "He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." Literally those who are constantly seeking him out....They are looking for God, his plan and his purpose and seeking God's will, and what he really wants in their lives.

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And the Bible says that God will reward that attitude. Now, the word "reward" means "to get wages back."

God is going to return to you the results of faith. And not only will he return to you in heaven, but also, right here in this ~~life~~ life.

Now, a lot of believers feel that if you walk by faith you will get your reward in heaven, but you get nothing here...OH, NO. *That is not true*

Please look back to chapter 10:35..the same word *rewarder* "to give wages back" is translated, here, in 10:35...It says "do not throw away your confidence which has a great reward."

The point is that my confidence and trust in God can sustain me through very difficult trials and heartach, which the content deals with, and I am not, therefore, to get rid of my confidence, because God will reward me now,....That the confidence that I have now, the patience that I have now.. in the midst of trails will be a reward to me, personally.

The reward that God gives back to us is in this life. It is the product of faith... *It is patience - ability to go through the trial*

What is this all trying to say...? ~~you turn to Hebrews chapter~~

Will you turn to Hebrews chapter 12, for just a moment. Chapter 12 verse 1 says "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us." That is not unbelievers watching us. That is the witnesses of Chapter 11....Abel...Enoch...Noah...all of them.

(Read 12:1-2)

Then we have a long discourse in Hebrews 12 of how God ^{disciplines} ~~chases~~ the believer. He brings disciplin into our lives.

Back to chapter 11. Knowing all of this....what ~~is~~ the Bible ^{is} trying to say ^{is} that beleivers should walk by faith and without ^{faith} ~~it~~ it is impossible to please God, and if you continually ^{maintain life} seek God He will reward you? WHAT IS THE REWARD THAT WE WILL GET?

ANSWER: The ability to see God's purpose in my life through the various pressures and sufferings and testings that will at some point come to me in my life.....

*How - By Removing me from bad situation - No
But by walking with me through them and*

God rewards me. And all those who bore witness in the O.T. are giving a testimony to me, that God will reward the person who continues to believe in God's purpose and plan. And that, dear friends, is in the midst of suffering and testings. In the midst of all that is going on, God will reward you. He will build your life. He will use you in a way that He cannot possible use without stepping out on faith. Ex - Donna Davis

So, we need to understand all of this in its content. The purpose of these examples of faith is to teach you and me to believe God even in the midst of suffering and circumstances that seem to be going the ~~the~~ wrong way.

God tells us that there is tremendous rewards for those who continue to believe Him and to seek Him out.

Shall we close in Prayer