

Faith Walking

Hebrews 11, talks about the activity of faith and defining faith as a person who believes God is. It is a confidence in God and his word; he is the object of our faith.

In this study we have seen the activity of faith in these “hero’s of faith” and in their activity of faith:

Abel: Faith Expressed in Worshiping
Enoch: Faith Expressed in Walking
Noah: Faith Expressed in Working
Abraham: Faith Expressed in Waiting

We do not know much about Enoch; in fact there are only 5 verses that reference him in the bible. (Including our scripture today)
 For those who want to study more on Enoch, (B4’s own) Rick Dalby’s book is available through the church.

“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)

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

Enoch walked faithfully with God, he wasn’t known for anything else. He walked in close proximity, in fact Jude tells us in verse 14 that he prophesied. Before the Law was written, before the Bible was God breathed, he walked close to God. Because of this closeness, proximity and intimacy Enoch saw all the way to Jesus.

The scriptures from the beginning reveal to us a God who walks with Adam and Eve in the garden. He still desires to walk with us side by side closely, next to us, communicating with us.

So an important question is, what does God want from me? He desires that we walk with him and he will walk with us. When we don’t walk with God we miss his presence. Maybe it’s more than being just redeemed back to him and his kingdom, but it’s about a walking relationship that he’s brought us back to

walk with God we miss his presence. Maybe it's more than being just redeemed back to him and his kingdom, but it's about a walking relationship that he's brought us back to.

So Christianity becomes more than what we believe, but a personal, close walk and intimate relationship with God like Enoch experienced.

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

“Mortal” in the original Hebrew language refers to a “fragile humanity”. If someone asked you okay I'm a Christian what does God require of me? How would you answer them? “Act justly” to “love mercy” and to “walk humbly with your God”.

The trait or virtue of *humbleness*, is more addressed in scriptures than any other trait. Yet in our culture, humbleness is not esteemed, in fact we teach and model just the opposite.

There was a Gallop pole that asked high school students if they were: “an important person”.

1950 - 12% said they thought they were important
2005 - 80% said they thought they were important

*“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ 14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. **For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.**” (Luke 18:10-14)*

Humility acknowledges Divinity.

- Humility begins with humbling yourself before God.
- Faith funnels into humility...“*God I trust you.*”

Humility acknowledges Humanity.

“Humility is simply acknowledging the truth of my position as creature and yielding to God His place.” Andrew Murray (Humility)

*“Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely “**I am not the Messiah**”*

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." 21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" (John 1:19-23)

- **We are Limited:** Leave your Messiah complex behind

"I am not the Messiah..."

Whatever your job, ministry, responsibility or assignment in this life, don't believe that you can do it all!

"Humility is the awareness that there's a lot you don't know and that a lot of what you think you know is distorted or wrong. This is the way that humility leads to wisdom because wisdom isn't a body of information. It's the moral quality of knowing what you don't know and figuring out a way to handle your ignorance, uncertainty and limitation." David Brooks (The Road to Character)

- **We are Endowed:** Find the voice that God has given you

"They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." 27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I must become less."
(John 3:26-29)

John not only acknowledged that he wasn't the Messiah but that: *"I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness."* John says I'm not the Messiah, but I am a voice. He is saying, as we should also, "I am not God but I do act on his behalf".

Faith recognizes and lives according to the inverted (upside down) nature of Jesus' Kingdom.

"Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ¹⁶ they have spoken against him."

judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”¹⁶ These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.”
(Jude 1:14-16)

Discussion Questions

- 1) As we think back on chapter 11 of Hebrews discuss how faith was expressed with:
 - Abel’s faith expressed in worshiping
 - (We will talk about Enoch’s faith being expressed in walking today)
 - Noah’s faith expressed in working
 - And Abraham’s faith expressed in waiting
- 2) As you re-read Hebrews 11:5 and Genesis 5:24 (on page one of your notes) what do you notice about this man with the limited information given. Also look at Jude 1:14-16 as it speaks about ‘Enoch prophesied about the future’, what are your thoughts on this? More than anything else about this interesting man was the fact that Enoch walked faithfully with God and he wasn’t known for anything else. (Think about closeness, proximity, relationship, intimacy, etc.)
- 3) After reading the Jude scriptures, it is interesting (see on the bottom of page one of your notes) that everything he did was before the Law was written and before the Bible was written. How did Enoch know how to please God? It said he even prophesied. Did it have anything to do with his walk with God?
- 4) Pastor Randy pointed out that the scriptures portray God from the beginning as a God who likes to walk (“in the cool of the evening”) with his kids. So possibly our redemption goes beyond just being brought back into right standing with God. Do you believe that God wanted to restore what was lost in the Garden? If so, what was redeemed when that “walk” was possible again? What things were possible again because the walk was restored?
- 5) I love scriptures like Micah 6:8, you know the ones that take you to the heart of matters. As you look back on page 2 of your notes and re-read the passage, discuss what God requires of you. All three are important but make sure you focus and have a good handle on, *“to walk humbly with your God.”*
- 6) As we take a fresh look at “humbleness”, what does it mean to you “humility acknowledges divinity”? Also; “humbleness acknowledges humanity”?

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7) Lastly what does it mean to you, to "*Leave your Messiah complex behind*" and to "*Find the voice that God has given you*"? (See pages 3&4)