



Main Verse: **Gen. 5:24—**And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him. **Heb. 11:5—**By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Introduction: Covid is on the rise again and people, to include Christians, are concerned about its impact on our health and livelihood. The “What-If Syndrome” is in the air. What if we must shut down again? What if hospitals are overrun? What if we are invaded by a strain of the virus that is worse? But for those who trust God, not knowing the answers does not mean our life-strategy must change. We must not be tossed and driven by circumstances—even those orchestrated by God! We are to be like Enoch who walked with God and was translated because of his faith. Was violence in the world in Enoch’s time? Was there sickness and uncertainty? You bet! But Enoch discovered the key to avoiding the anxiety and fear that threatens our stability in trying times; absolute faith in God. The faith that worked for Enoch will work for us! We may not be translated like Enoch, but we will reap the same reward of eternal life if we keep walking with God by faith.

What is Faith and How do We Obtain it? Eph. 1:13, Rom. 6:17, 10:17

Eph. 1:13-- In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Rom. 6:17-- But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Rom. 10:17-- So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Note: Faith is believing and trusting in the gospel of Jesus Christ, that is, His death, burial, and resurrection, and sacrifice for our sins. It is obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation. Another way of saying this is that faith is believing to the point of obedience. It is belief in action! See Mark 16:15-16, John 3:1-5, 7:38-39, Eph. 1:13, Heb. 11:1-23. Obedience to God’s Word should not be confused with “working” to earn salvation. Salvation is not earned. It is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8-10). However, it must also be understood that biblical faith produces godly works (James 2:18, Rev. 20:12-15). How is faith obtained or received? Everyone receives an initial deposit of faith from God. Paul called it a “measure of faith” (Rom. 12:3). But saving faith comes by hearing the gospel preached and obeying the gospel after hearing it (Rom. 10:17). In other words, faith comes by hearing the message of salvation (the word of God), which is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What it Means to Keep Walking by Faith:

- **We Live by Faith: Heb. 10:38**

Heb. 11:38--Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Note: The Bible says, “Enoch “walked” with God.” But John 4:24 declares that “God is a Spirit;” so we should not visualize God and Enoch strolling through the meadows together. “Walked with God” simply means Enoch placed his trust in God alone. The Hebrew word for “walked” in Genesis 5:24 is “halak,” which means *to walk as a lifestyle or pattern of conduct*. The Bible teaches us to live holy in “all manner of conversation (1 Pet. 1:15). The word “halak” carries the same meaning as the word “conversation” used by the apostle Peter in the New Testament, which is a “way of life or behavior.” Therefore, to walk by faith means to live daily with conduct and behavior suitable for a person who wholly trusts in God. Paul declared that the “just,” those counted as righteous “shall live by faith.” Those who live by faith do not expect God to reveal everything He does, rid them of every pain or discomfort, or prevent harm from coming to them. No, the just will simply keep walking (living a lifestyle) that exhibits and exudes faith in God regardless of what they see, feel, or experience.

- **We Speak with Faith: 2 Tim. 1:12, 1 Pet. 3:15**

2 Tim. 1:12—For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

1 Pet. 3:15—But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Note: If there was anyone who refused to let adversity stop him from trusting God, it was Paul! Even as he wrote to Timothy from a prison cell, he beamed with faith! Paul had suffered abuse, rejection, torture, isolation, abandonment, imprisonment, and sickness, but he still clung to the promises of God! The Bible teaches us to be ready “always” to give an answer to everyone who asks the reason of the hope in us. The reason for Paul’s hope was that despite what anyone said or what he had experienced, he was persuaded that God was faithful! That is what it takes to “keep walking by faith.” Under the worst conditions, Paul kept living a lifestyle of faith.

- **We Pray in Faith: Daniel 3:10**—Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Note: The accounts of Daniel’s life also illustrate what it means to keep walking by faith. Daniel knew that a new law was written specifically to prevent him from praying to God. What did he do? He prayed anyway! Please do not misunderstand. Christians should obey the laws of the land (Rom. 13:1-7). We should be model citizens. But when the laws of the land prevent us from obeying God, we must obey God rather than man. Daniel did not protest the law. Back then that may not have been a wise thing to do. But he had a custom of praying three times a day, and he kept praying, believing God would work things out. And He did. The king of Persia tossed Daniel into the lion’s den, but the

King of glory brought Him out! Walking by faith means we keep praying by faith and in faith even if, and especially if, the world tells us not to pray.

- **We Worship in Faith: Heb. 10:23-25**—(23) Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) (24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Note: The Jewish Christians were told to “hold fast the profession of...faith.” They had been walking by faith for years, and they were being persecuted. But Paul did not tell them to give up! Instead, he argued that they should cling to their faith without wavering, which means without hesitation, quivering, or indecision. They were to provoke each other to love and good works, both of which are demonstrations of a lifestyle of faith (James 2:18). In addition, they were to keep gathering for congregational worship! It takes faith to worship under hostile conditions. But worshipping in faith is part of walking by faith. Paul admonished the saints to continue assembling even more as they realized the time of their departure from this world drew close.

- **We Hold On to the Dreams God Has Given Us: Gen. 49:22-24**—(22) Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: (23) The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: (24) But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)

Note: Joseph’s story was much different from Enoch’s. Enoch was transported to heaven, but Joseph was transported to Egypt—in chains. He was a slave in Egypt for about seventeen years. He did not know how his family fared or if he would ever see them again. But despite his predicament, Joseph kept walking by faith. Before Jacob died, he enlarged upon Joseph’s sorrows and subsequent approval by God as a type of Christ. “The archers sorely grieved him,...shot at him, and hated him,” wrote Moses. But! “...his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:).” Understand something. A life of faith may mean being “sorely grieved at times. People will shoot at you, figuratively or literally; others will hate you! Your faith may not stop trouble from coming or get you out of trouble immediately, but it will guarantee God’s presence while you are in trouble, and His reward for your trouble. Just ask Job (Job 42:10-17).

- **We Trust God During the Worst of Times: Hab. 2:2,4**

Hab. 2:2 & 4—(2) And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. (4) Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Note: How do you think people would respond if they knew for certain that the United States was going to be attacked by another country; that the attack was orchestrated by God, and that millions of Americans would be killed and taken prisoners by the foreign country?! Can you imagine the headlines?! But around 600 B.C., that is exactly what happened to the southern kingdom of Judah! God sent an invasion of the Chaldeans (a.k.a. the Babylonians) to punish the nation for their sins. The Lord told the prophet, Habakkuk, about the invasion beforehand. Because the invasion was certain and imminent, Habakkuk did not bother to call the nation to repentance. It was too late! But what he did mention was faith. Notice his words in verse 4: “his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.” In other words, the unrighteous person is prideful in his heart

and is not right with God! But the just person (those found righteous by God) shall live by his faith. The only way for anyone to preserve his life during God's judgment was by faith! Habakkuk, chapter two, is proof that even amid the worst conditions on earth, the way through is to keep walking by faith.

Summary: Only God knows what the future will bring. But the just must not be tossed and driven by the circumstances encountered. Instead, he or she must be like Enoch and walk with God by faith. Faith is belief in action. It is trusting and obeying God through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Walking by faith is living each day with an attitude and behavior that demonstrates absolute trust in God. It is speaking and praying in faith because we are persuaded that God is faithful! It is provoking and exhorting others to love and good works and gathering for worship even more as the day of deliverance draws near. Walking by faith is clinging to the dreams God has given us and trusting God in the worst of times. We may not be able to see where God is leading or understand why He is allowing us to suffer. But no matter what we feel, see, or experience, we must remember the faithful of old, and keep walking by faith.