

Hebrews 11:5-6

<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

<sup>6</sup> But 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 diligently seek Him.

## **“God Pleasing Faith” Hebrews 11:5-6**

INTRO:

My high school English teacher assigned us the task of writing our own epitaph. She asked us to write down what we would want written on our tombstones. I wasn't in a very spiritual state at this point in my life, so my answer was, “*His friends know who lies here, to all others it doesn't matter.*” Pretty depressing thought, wasn't it?

In **Hebrews 11**, God gives in the verses honoring Enoch an epitaph for Enoch. This is an unusual epitaph in that it could not appear on his gravestone. Enoch never died. Yet, as the Lord of Glory honors His servant Enoch, He assigns to him the greatest possible honor any created human being could receive. Enoch pleased God.

How can we also reach this plateau of greatness in God's eyes? How can we be assured that God would say of each of us that we pleased God? The account in our text answers this question.

***I. Enoch's Example (v.5)***

***II. Enoch's Faith (v.6).***

***“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Hebrews 11:5).***

A. Enoch is relatively insignificant in the Old Testament record. Enoch's life's story comprises **7 verses** in **Genesis 5**. Although He did not give a great deal of material in the Bible on him, God wants us to remember Enoch was great in His eyes. There is an important lesson in this for us. You and I may not see our names in the marquees, yet we are important to God. When we stand at the Bema of Christ, we will be surprised at who God honors. Some of the unknowns will get the greatest honors.

B. Although Enoch appears in the Old Testament only in a genealogical list, there is something very arresting about that list. We read “so and so” lived so many years and begat someone and lived after that so many years and died.

1. Until Enoch there is an unending line of coffins to underline the truth of God's statement, *“In the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die.”* In the continual funeral march there is one arresting break. *“And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.”* Enoch never died!

2. How is it Enoch never died? **Verse 5** here in **Hebrews 11** gives us the answer. *“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him.’”* He did not die because God *“took”* Enoch. The word literally means to transfer from one place to another. Enoch was raptured.

C. When Enoch was taken, he had this testimony, *“he pleased God.”* Two principles need to be seen here. **(1)** What an accomplishment pleasing God is and **(2)** how Enoch pleased God.

1. Let us consider what an accomplishment pleasing God is. Do you remember the Apostle Paul's Words in **Philippians 3**?

*“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*  
(vs. 12-16)

Paul always pressed toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Do you know what that mark is? It is pleasing God. In another passage, Paul made a similar statement. In **2 Corinthians 5:9** he wrote,

*“Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be well pleasing to [God].”*

Paul's life goal was to please God. Enoch accomplished it!

2. How did Enoch please God? The easy response is found in the **Genesis 5** text. The Bible says *“he walked with God.”* What does that mean?

3. Walking with God is the path to pleasing God. This suggests some principles to us. **(1)** Fellowship with God is as important as service in pleasing God.

Remember the lesson of Martha and Mary. **(2)** Fellowship with God, which is pleasing to God, is *“progressing”* and not *“stagnant.”* In order to walk with God, we must have the same destination and a common ground.

*“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have*

*fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:6–7)*

## ***II. Enoch's Faith (v.6)***

A. Our walk is very important if we are to please God. The writer of Hebrews, in his divine commentary on Enoch's testimony, focused in on one aspect of that walk which is key to why Enoch was able to please God. Enoch had God-pleasing faith. What is God-pleasing faith? What does it look like?

***“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 diligently seek Him.”***

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that God-pleasing faith has two parts.

B. The first aspect of God-pleasing faith involves our belief concerning the reality of God's person. If we are to please the Lord, we must believe ***“that He is.”*** This means we must believe He exists. We might be tempted to say to this, *“Oh, that's simple. I believe that God exists.”* Do we?

1. What happens when our Lord commands us to do something we don't want to do, or tells us not to do something we want to do? Many times, we Christians do just what we want as if God didn't exist. We need to look at our lives and ask ourselves, *“How would things be different if God didn't exist?”* I'm afraid we would have to answer, *“There wouldn't be much difference.”*

2. If we are to please God we must believe God exists. The reality of His presence must make a difference in our lives.

C. Second, God-pleasing faith seeks God for Himself, not just what He can do for us. We must believe He becomes ***“a rewarder of them that diligently (continually) seek Him.”*** A faith that pleases God is a faith that which seeks God Himself. This kind of faith is personified by David in **Psalm 27**.

***“When You said, ‘Seek My face.’ My heart said to You, ‘Your face, Lord, I will seek.’” (Psalm 27:8)***

Notice this statement has an object (that which is sought) and a result (that which is true because of the seeking.) The object sought is God Himself. The verse does not say: *“We must believe He is a rewarder of those who seek His blessings.”* It says that He is a rewarder of them that seek Him. If we seek Him, He becomes our rewarder and our reward.

## **What Do We Take From This?**

1. Are we walking with God? We need to continually, persistently walk in the light as He is in the light.

2. Do we show that we really believe in Him? Do we acknowledge that He is God and has a right to have His way in our thinking and our lives?
3. Do we seek Him for who He is or do we still seek Him for what He can do for us?
4. What do you want for your epitaph? How about aspiring for the one that Enoch had?  
*“He pleased God.”*

**Hymn# 518 *The Longer I Serve Him***