

01-05-01.wpd—Walking With God

repentance, reconciliation, Bible reading, eternal life

Genesis 5:21-24

If you want an out-of-this-world experience, walk with God.

INTRODUCTION: (read **text**)

—"Life after death" was not God's will for us at creation. "No death at all" was His original plan. *The translation of Enoch* shows us what He still has in mind... Jesus says so in John 11:25-26, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

–Enoch's story is an OT picture of eternal life, God's ultimate plan for His people. Adam found a grave outside Eden's gates; Abel was buried in the field of his martyrdom; Cain's grave, if it bore an epitaph, would say "the world's first murderer," and Methuselah's would say "*the oldest man that ever lived*," (and we could add, "*who died before his father did*"). All of these could have gravestones with biblical epitaphs, but Enoch's only the epitaph is this: "He is not here. He is risen."

--Humanity longs for it, God longs to give it, Enoch experienced it: eternal life. The secret of that experience is in **v.24**, *Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.* What does it mean to walk with God, and how do we do it?

I. What is "Walking with God"?

A. "Walking with God" starts by having hostility toward God removed

1. We are not by nature friendly with God-- Rom 8:7-8, the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. (some are passively hostile, saying they believe, but resist getting too *involved*):
 - a. "Sure, I believe in God, but let's talk about something practical."
 - b. "Sure, I believe in Heaven, but I'm too busy for that stuff right now."
2. We start walking with God when we stop displeasing Him-- Heb 11:5-6, 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. 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**. (True faith seeks a new way of life!)

B. "Walking with God" comes in an abiding fellowship with Christ–

1. It means staying connected– John 15:5 (NKJV), "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." (this is the key to...)
2. Following Christ-- 1 John 2:6 (NKJV), He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.--
 - a. You're identified by the company you keep...
 - b. Enoch's testimony of "earnestly seeking" God led to *immortality* – our walk with God through Christ leads to *life eternal*– John 17:3, Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
- C. "Walking with God" means making spiritual progress -- it implies growth [parable of the talents: progress was rewarded, stagnation condemned; point A to point B or C or D, but not point A to point A]

TRANS: Let Enoch be your teacher: If you want an out-of-this-world experience, walk with God. How do we do it?

II. How Can We Maintain a Walk with God?

- A. By following the pathway of the Word-- Psa 119:104-105, I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.--
 1. Some want the Word plus the world, but Jesus said (Mat 7:13-14), "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."
 2. Some want the Word without opposing worldliness, but a walk with God sets you in direct opposition to ungodliness in this world [Enoch's walk made him a fearless prophet of holiness-- Jude 1:14-15, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones, to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."]
- B. By ongoing conversation– we can walk with God because He's made Himself available in **prayer** [Did Enoch learn about prayer late in life? Did he ask for children? It was after he got them at age 65, that he began a 300-year walk with God.]– relationships must have communication.
- C. By noting His providential works– God is invisible to physical eyes, but the *eye of faith* sees His hand all around (Keep your spiritual eyes open, every day *and* review past blessings.)

- D. By meditating on His inner presence (Holy Spirit)-- Rom 8:14, For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. [The trust game: blind-folded and led about by friends] (We must trust in God's *leading*.)
- E. By keeping company with His followers-- we're to walk with God, but the journey is together with others walking in the same direction (Christians need *fellowship* with other Christians who are determined to follow the Leader, the REAL Leader!)

CONCLUSION:

--Enoch wasn't a monk somewhere in a monastery. If he preached against godless sinners, it means he lived in a pagan culture, probably much worse than ours. He had a wife, and while he walked with God for 300 years, he had more children, maybe more, many more than I have. But he walked with God, so well, that he experienced life without death: *life eternal*.

--"My retirement plan," I often tell people, "is *out-of-this-world!*" But don't wait until we're dead to experience heavenly joys! **If you want an out-of-this-world experience, walk with God..... Start today!**

Gen 5:21 (NIV), When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.

Gen 5:22 (NIV), And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

Gen 5:23 (NIV), Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years.

Gen 5:24 (NIV), Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.