

What do I want on My Tombstone?#4

(Enoch – “I Walked with God” - Genesis 5:1-32)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. ILLUS:** What do all these names have in common: Bostick, Campbell, Hill, Martin, Smith, and Williams? They were all randomly selected from an obituary column. Every day the names change but the story remains unchanged. The same monotonous plot, the same tedious details, the same dull and boring sentiments, and nothing more than a redundant echo of the previous day's column. Here is every obituary in a nutshell: The birth of so and so, the life of so and so, the survivors of so and so, the age of so and so, the death of so and so, and the funeral arrangements for so and so. Just once I would like to open the newspaper and in the middle of the death redundancy read “so and so did not die because God took him.” Wouldn't that be awesome!
- B.** Your Bible has this exact entry in the middle of a very redundant obituary column found in Genesis 5:1-32. There you read about the birth of so and so, the life of so and so, the survivors of so and so, and the death of so and so...and just about the moment you are about to die from boredom you are resurrected by these verses (Gen.5:21-24).
- C. WELCOME.**
- D.** Contrast the contributions of Cain's line (Gen.4:17-26) with Enoch: Cain was the first city planner, he gave us metroplexes and rush hour traffic; Jabal was the original cowboy, he gave us John Wayne movies and Longhorn steakhouses; Jubal was the entertainment industry guru, he gave us Beethoven, Stradivarius, Baby Grands, and Vegas; Tubal-Cain was the forger of tools and weapons, he gave us Smith & Wesson and Home Depots.
- E.** What did Enoch do for the world? He walked with God!¹ **QUOTE:** *“We have many strong featured characters drawn in history. Some shine in all the brilliancy of martial achievements, and are renowned for the conquest of kingdoms. Others have gathered laurels in the paths of science and illumined the world with the flashes of their genius. Others by their counsels have swayed the fate of empires. And the deeds of these have been loudly sounded by the trumpet of fame. But more is said in praise of this man of God in the few short words of our text, than is said of them all. A greater character is given him in four words, than is ascribed to the most renowned warriors and statesmen by the whole voice of history and poetry.”*²

¹ Do not underestimate this truth. All of Cain's accomplishments ended up buried under trillions of gallons of God's judicial wrath, but through Enoch's commitment a boat-builder was birthed and carried the DNA of the Messiah to the new world.

² <http://www.puritansermons.com/sermons/griffin6.htm>

- F. TEXTS: All the Bible records about Enoch is essentially in three passages – The man and his history - **Gen. 5:21-24**; The man and his testimony - **Hebrews 11:5,6**;³ The man and his prophecy - **Jude 14-16**; cf. also Lk.3:37.

I. I walked with God – Enoch

- A. Enoch is only mentioned in four passages. His name means “dedication”. As far as direct lineage he was the son of Jared and the father of Methuselah (5:20, 27). In terms of more distant heritage he was the ancestor of Adam and the predecessor of Christ (Lk.3:37). All we know about his occupation is that he was a prophet (Jude 14). Finally, the only personal notations that we have regarding his character are that “he walked with God” and that he “pleased God” (Heb.11:5). The genetic chances of Enoch having a long life are very good. Longevity was hard-wired to his family’s DNA. His daddy lived to be 962 and his son lived to be 969. However, Enoch enjoyed only 1/3 of his life expectancy. In terms of patriarchal time Enoch stopped living on the earth at the young age of 365.

I want to share 4 truths from the man who walked with God:

B. *His walk was untiring – He did not quit (Gen.5:21-24):*

- “He walked” - **POINT**: To walk with God is THE BUSINESS OF A LIFETIME, not just the performance of an hour.⁴ The word “walk” denotes a steady, intentional, characteristic, and habitual way of life.⁵ It is to be in regular proximity to God, engaged in conversation with God, and enjoying mutual intimate communion. There is a title on a 17th century book written

³ Keep in mind that this book was addressed to Christians who were struggling in their faith, 10.35-39, and now they are being encouraged to press along. By examining the faith of each Bible hero in chapter 11, the Hebrew writer hoped to spur his readers into a more energetic and fulfilling relationship with Christ.

⁴ The term “WALK” is used many times in the New Testament to represent FAITHFUL LIVING. **Romans 6:4**—“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death . . . even so we also should WALK in newness of life.” **2 Corinthians 5:7**—“For we WALK by faith, not by sight.” **Galatians 5:16,25**—“WALK in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” **Ephesians 5:2,8**—“WALK in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us. . . .” To “walk with God” signifies a life SURRENDERED TO GOD, a life CONTROLLED BY GOD, a life LIVED FOR GOD. **Amos 3:3**—“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” YOU CANNOT WALK WITH GOD WHEN YOU ARE WALKING IN SIN. **1 John 1:5-7**—“. . . God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship on with another. . . .” To walk with God is THE BUSINESS OF A LIFETIME, not just the performance of an hour. **Psalms 128:1**—“Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways.” Walking with God is a blessed walk. **Revelation 3:4**—Christ even speaks of our fellowship with Him in heaven as a walk: “They shall WALK with me in white: for they are worthy.” Also **Col.4:5**; **1 Thess.4:1**; **II Jn.6**; etc.

⁵ Enoch is not the only character during the patriarchal period who walked with God. The Biblical record tells us Noah *walked* with God, [Genesis 6.6-8](#). Abraham was called to *walk* with God, [Genesis 17.1](#). Later, Abraham spoke of how he had *walked* with God, [Genesis 24.40](#). Finally, the term is used once more in [Genesis 48.15](#). Because Noah walked with God, he escaped judgment. Because Abraham walked with God, he received blessing. Because Enoch walked with God, he escaped death.

by Brother Lawrence which I believe best captures the concept of walking with God. The title is "Practicing the Presence of God."⁶ **POINT:** We practice the presence of God not when we are amused with Him from Sunday to Sunday but when we are amazed by Him from day to day.

I think everyone would agree that we have a "presence crisis" in our world today. If you go to dinner with your kids then you have to text them to get their attention. Not only are we inattentive to one another but we are particularly inattentive to God. When we practice the presence of God we are making ourselves available to Him, listening to Him, noticing what He is doing in the world around us and to the world within us. Disciplines like, prayer, meditation, Bible study, and fasting are not ways to seize the presence of God but rather exercises that make us more open to the realization of His presence. What does it look like to practice the presence of God? It looks a lot like Mt.25:31-46 and Eph.5:22-25.

- "He walked with God **for 365 years**" - **POINT:** Not only did Enoch walk with God but he did so for over 300 years. That is remarkable, especially in this generation who struggle walking with God from minute to minute let alone from day to day or from year to year. We must learn from Enoch that the life of faith is not a sprint, it is a marathon. The life of faith takes endurance, perseverance, and stamina. We have to have intensity fueled by intimacy for the long haul. This is difficult for most of us because we do not believe that we have time to form a relationship with God. We are all overextended. **QUOTE:** Randy Harris says, that if we are overextended then we are under-committed! For example, if we are too busy to pray then we are too busy. How did Enoch remain "dedicated"⁷ when the rest of the world revolted?

- a) His heart sought harmony with God on a daily basis – **SCRIPTURE:**
Amos 3:3 – "*can two walk together unless they be agreed?*" We cannot walk with God for a lifetime if we cannot obey His word each day (cf. I Jn.2:3-6). We do not need to concern ourselves with our yearly walk, only with our daily walk. The Bible does not command us to number our years but it does tell us to number our days (Ps.90:12).⁸ **POINT:** When we count our years we tend to waste

⁶ The title is actually "The Practice of the Presence of God."

⁷ "Enoch" means dedicated.

⁸ "In Psalm 90:12, Moses is requesting God's help to more wisely use his time for God's glory. Because Moses lived in the context of death, he was time conscious.

According to Numbers 26, all the men over 20 who refused to obey God and go into the Promised Land totaled 600,000 and were sentenced to die in the wilderness. That means that Moses spent 40 years superintending 1,200,000 funerals (the men above 20 and their wives). That is approximately 87 per day or 3 to 4 each hour."

<http://drtimwhite.com/2010/02/07/count-your-days-to-make-your-days-count-sermon-from-psalm-90-part-1/>

days but when we learn to count our days then we not only make each day count, but we also accumulate years of faithfulness. Enoch understood that life is lived one day at a time (cf. Ps.118:24). It is not too hard to give God today.

b) His consciousness of God's presence was not painful but pleasant – To him the will of God was not harsh but gracious. To him the rule of God was not oppressive but generous. Think of the contrast: Adam and Eve lived in a perfect world with complete provision and the daily presence of God. Nevertheless, they cast off His rule, feared His arrival, and hid from His presence. Enoch, on the other hand, lived in a fallen world with complete rebellion and a daily dose of eulogies. Nevertheless, he eagerly sought the rule of God, thirsted for His daily arrival, and enthusiastically embraced His presence. The difference lies in our attitude towards God's presence in our lives...is He a stern rule giver or is He a gracious ruler? Is He a merciless Judge or is He a nail-scarred Savior? Your view of God will alter your daily dosage of God.

c) His feet were on the earth but his heart was in heaven – Even though he was in the middle of a marathon his mind focused on the finish line (cf. Col.3:1-2; Heb.12:1ff). You have to decide on your country and your flag, because when you finish the marathon that is the one you will drape around you as you take a victory lap around the stadium. If it is the USA and a star-riddled red, white, and blue then you will live one way. However, if your country is heaven and your colors are the black and blue body of Jesus and the crimson on an old rugged cross then you will live another way.

- **POINT:** To walk with God is a life of continual progress. Someone once said, "The conversion of a sinner takes a moment, but the growth of a saint takes a lifetime. Like the Chinese say, "It takes 10 years to plant a tree, but 100 years to plant a man!"
- **POINT:** The full earthly impact of Enoch walking with God is likely seen in his grandson Noah (who saved the world). The impact of a godly life is not always fully understood until a generation or two later. There is a legacy to faith that not only offers us heaven but gives future generations the same opportunity.

C. His walk was uncompromising – He did not bend (Jude 14-16):

- The times of Enoch –

Enoch lived in an age of wealth – in a technologically advancing and rapidly growing society (Gen.4:16-26). Cities were being built, lands were being bought, and nations were being born;

He lived in an age of health – in an age of unprecedented health and longevity. The only safe place to have a birthday party for some of these patriarchs would be at the fire station;

He lived in an age of filth – The wicked days of Noah that precipitated the flood were the days of Enoch (Gen.6:5-7; Lk.17:26-27; Perhaps even Rm.1:18-32). Enoch “walked” in a “fallen” world. The wicked days of Noah were the walking days of Enoch. Noah built during unbelief and Enoch walked in a time of wickedness.

- The character of Enoch –

POINT: He was untouched by their sin, unaffected by their wickedness, and unmoved by their godlessness. He was also uncompromising in his denunciation of their lifestyle. We have often said that God preached for 120 years during the ark-preparing days of Noah. But according to Jude 14-16, God was warning the world for 100’s of more years through the prophetic ministry of Enoch.

POINT: It is difficult to stand up for God when the rest of the world has fallen from God, to speak for heaven when the rest of the world refuses to hear heaven, to stand out when the rest of the world is trying to force you to stand down, and to stand out when the rest of the world just wants to blend in. It is hard to stand alone when outnumbered. But we must. **NOTE:** A faithful walk does not bend nor does it blend. It preaches repentance and judgment to come.⁹ It is no accident that the two men who passed from this world without tasting of death were both distinguished as fearless prophets who preached repentance and judgment in ages dominated by rank wickedness (Enoch/Elijah).

POINT: A personal relationship with God does not mean a secret relationship with God!

- The Lessons from Enoch –

a) *It is possible to walk with God* - POINT: It is possible to walk with God while living amongst the worst on earth. If we bloom in the

⁹ Enoch even gave his son Methuselah a prophetic name meaning “when he dies it shall be sent.” When Enoch’s baby Methuselah grows up and dies according to the named prophecy, then God’s judgment will be sent on the earth. Interestingly, if Adam was created in year 1 and then we added all the years in Genesis 5, we discover that Methuselah died in the year 1656. Continuing our calculations we find that Noah was born in the year 1056 and that he entered the ark in 1656. Methuselah died in the year of the flood. God’s punishment was sure but His grace was also long!

barrenness then we know that our life has the hand of God upon it (creation, barren women, cross, tomb). **SCRIPTURE:** “Become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe” (Philippians 2:15). **POINT:** In an age of sin there can be righteousness, in an age of death there can be life. Even though there is a flaming sword, barring entrance to paradise for those walking on earth, the tree of life is still accessible to those walking in heaven.

- b) ***It is important to walk with God*** - **POINT:** Do not underestimate the power of walking - **Judges 1:6** “6 But Adonibezek fled; and they pursued after him, and caught him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes.” Without your great, or big toe, you cannot walk. There is no concern about you ever being a problem again, because you can’t march! The enemy doesn’t have to kill us to make us ineffective; he just has to get us to stop walking!
- c) ***It is necessary to walk with God*** – **POINT:** The less distance you put between you and God then the more distance you put between you and the devil (cf. Js.4:4-10). When you walk close to God then you leave no room for the devil. **POINT:** When you are full of the world then you cannot taste of God but when you are full of God then you lose appetite for the world. (cf. Prov.27:7).
- d) ***It is imperative to measure a “successful” walk accurately*** – From a human vantage point Enoch’s ministry seemed to be unproductive and his prophetic presence for over 300 years seemed to be unfruitful. But Enoch’s purpose was to be faithful, not effective. He obeyed and left the results up to God (cf. Heb.11:5; also Mt.3:17; 17:5). Enoch may not have saved a single soul from the old world but his fidelity to God put Noah and a whole new world on an ark. NOTE: Jesus’ 33 year ministry appeared fruitless when He died on a cross, but He put a whole new world on His nail-scarred back and has carried us ever since!
- e) ***It is impossible to walk in sin and to also walk with God*** - **POINT:** You cannot walk with God when you are also walking in sin. **SCRIPTURE:** 1 John 1:5-7—“. . . God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship on with another. . . .”
- f) ***It is walking with God that wins others to God*** – **POINT:** When you walk with God you also attempt to point others to Him.

SCRIPTURE: **Ezekiel 3:18-19**—"When I say unto the wicked, You will surely die; and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man will die in his iniquity; BUT HIS BLOOD WILL I REQUIRE AT YOUR HAND. Yet if you warn the wicked, and he turns not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he will die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul."¹⁰

g) *It is walking with God that keeps us from drowning* – POINT:

When you walk with God then you are neither running ahead of Him nor lagging behind Him. **POINT:** From Enoch we learn that when you are not conformed to the world then you are neither controlled by the world nor condemned with the world!

h) *It is walking with God that guarantees we will be missed* -

POINT: Will you be missed? Heb. 11:5 adds that "he was not found". This tells me that somebody missed him. Let each of us live so as to be missed. No missing report or amber alert could locate Enoch. When God removed his servant, earth is impoverished and Heaven is enriched.

D. *His walk was unrelenting – He did not settle (Gen.5:21-24):*

- **SCRIPTURES:** Enoch is one of only 2 men of whom it is explicitly said in scripture that they walked with God. Noah is the other one (Gen 6:9). Gen. 17:1 speaks of walking before God. Abraham did this. Deut. 13:14 speaks of walking after God. Col. 2:6 speaks of walking in God. But Enoch walked with God.
- **POINT:** When you walk with God there is nothing ordinary about it. How extraordinary to have companionship with the Creator, to fellowship the Father of all things, to be covered by the Son, filled with the Spirit, and guided by the very same Voice that brought light into existence! Enoch's walk emphasizes an important relationship between humanity and divinity, between God and man, between that which is weak and limited, and that which is powerful and unlimited. **POINT:** Why do we want to wait until we die before we decide to walk with God? What a waste of time! Think of the high and holy privilege of walking with God now, today:¹¹
 - a) *Privilege:*** The One who clothes Himself in majesty and is robed in a garment of light; The One who stretches out the heavens like a curtain

¹⁰ [See Nazi Holocaust illustration in my notes on 01Genesis05].

¹¹ From SermonCentral.com; WALKING WITH GOD by Curtis Kittrell;

and makes the clouds His chariot; The One who laid the foundation of the earth and commands the sun and moon; the One who regulates seasons...communes with me every day!

b) Power: Because of who God is when we walk with Him means we walk in power. You may be sent into a fiery furnace as fuel but if you walk with God then you will come out of the fire and not even smell like smoke; You may enter the lion's den as the main entrée in the cat house but if you walk with God you will come out without a scratch mark, tooth mark, or even a single lion mane hair sticking to you; And when you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, if you walk with God there, then death cannot touch you because you are in the shadow of the Almighty!

c) Provision: Walking with God is a life of complete satisfaction.

- “He walked **with God**” – What a blessing to be engrossed in God's fellowship. **POINT:** Think of the absurdity of an intermittent walk with God? How could walking with God be an occasional or a seasonal thing? If God has truly been encountered then who wouldn't want normative, regular, and daily intimacy with the Creator of all things? Who would not want to advance in the knowledge of the One who knows all things? Who would not want to be where neither sin nor Satan can invade, where neither anxiety nor fear can intrude?

A walk where there is not a pointless thought or a wasted second! When we walk with God then our defender is always closer than the enemy, our refuge is always closer than the danger. When you walk with the extraordinary God then you learn to enjoy all the ordinary things because you are with Him! One with-God-walking man will have more impact on the world than a whole society of those walking without Him. We get to share God's immortal glory! Wow! “In heaven the blessed inhabitants all walk with God, every day and hour. And they find it no burden but a happiness which they would not exchange for the whole creation.”¹² (cf. Isa.6:1ff; Rev.4-5; etc.).

- **POINT:** The reward for walking with God is God Himself! This has always been the basis for a relationship with God. As he prepared to die, David said to his son, Solomon, *As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you*

¹² <http://www.puritansermons.com/sermons/griffin6.htm>

forever, 1 Chronicles 28.9. In Psalm 119:10, David said, with all my heart, I have sought you. In Proverbs 8:17 God said, I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me. And finally, Jeremiah 29:13, contains a wonderful promise: You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

E. His walk was uninterrupted – He did not die (Heb.11:5):

- **ILLUS:** Around 125 A.D., a Greek by the name of Aristeides wrote to one of his friends, trying to explain the extraordinary success of the new religion, Christianity. In his letter he said, "If any righteous man among the Christians passes from this world, they rejoice and offer thanks to God, and they accompany his body with songs and thanksgiving as if he were setting out from one place to another nearby." (Today in the Word, April 10, 1993).
ILLUS: When a man dies we do not forward his mail because there is nowhere to send it. But with Enoch his mail was simply forwarded to his new change of address. He did not die, he just relocated.
- There was no obituary, no casket, and no funeral. He did not see death. Death saw him but was not permitted to touch him. For over 300 years the pale horse and his Grim-Reaper-rider traversed the earth and grimly reaped wherever they trod. But death cannot reap where life is being sown. Enoch didn't leave the earth in a hospital bed or in a coffin. He did not leave the earth with a coroner's report or a death certificate. His life had no expiration date. He walked straight from earth's pavements to heaven's golden street.
POINT: When you are dead to the world then you really never die in the world because you have already begun living in the next world.
- **POINT:** Enoch did not live the shortest, he lived the most! He did not live the briefest he lived the best. **QUOTE:** Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry. (Mark Twain). In fact, the best life is not the life that staves off death the longest but the one that bypasses death altogether (Jn.11:24-25). **POINT:** Our goal should not be to add days to our existence on earth but rather longevity to our relationship with heaven.
- **QUOTE:** Death is not extinguishing the light from the Christian; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come. (Unknown).
- **QUOTE:** In Valladolid, Spain, where Christopher Columbus died in 1506, stands a monument commemorating the great discoverer. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the memorial is a statue of a lion destroying one of the Latin words that had been part of Spain's motto for centuries. Before Columbus made his voyages, the Spaniards thought they had reached the outer limits of earth. Thus their motto was "Ne Plus Ultra," which means "No

More Beyond." The word being torn away by the lion is "Ne" or "no," making it read "Plus Ultra." Columbus had proven that there was indeed "more beyond." (Source Unknown).

CONCLUSION:

- A. POINT:** God does not commend men in their final hour for what they have achieved but rather on whom they have believed. God is not impressed with our status, wealth, degrees, employment history, titles, etc. Those who found favor with God are those who live by faith in God. It is not our position in life but our disposition toward God that matters.
- B. POINT:** The righteous understand something that the religious do not...the reward for the religious is only heaven but the reward for the righteous is God Himself! (RWE). When you pursue God Himself in this life then there is really no need for a transition to the next life because you are already with the One you will...
- C. POINT:** When you walk with God then you have to go in His direction. When you walk with God then you enjoy His companionship, and when you walk with God then you end up at His house!
- D. POINT:** We cannot overestimate the importance of this. In the shadow of the garden's great scandal and in the presence of the world's first cemetery is one whom God delivered from death. This is the hope for all men! **POINT:** Enoch is the potential picture of all who walk with God in faith. Death does not have to have the last word!
- E. POINT:** The one who says yes to faith says no to a funeral! The one who walks with God will not rot in the ground! **PUN:** Enoch was the man with "undying faith"!
- F. SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52**, "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."
- G. SCRIPTURE:** "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.**