

A Walk with God...

By Rev. David J. Bauer

In 1984 and 1985 I was privileged to train for and to run two Marathon races in Chicago. It seems like the whole city comes out for this great 26.2 mile spectacle. In 1984 a world record was set in the Chicago Marathon, and in 1985 a world record was missed by one second, both times by the same participant!

I was one of those who “also ran,” not in a world class Olympic sense, but as one who did indeed finish the course. I trained hard, especially the second year, and successfully shaved off exactly one hour of time from my previous effort.

I can remember feeling the strain of the miles as I passed the 22 mile marker, fighting off urges to stop or to walk the remaining distance I continued to lift my tired legs with pure determination treading on as fast as was humanly possible.

Suddenly a man walking an Olympic style walk came along side of me, and tipping his baseball hat to me with a grin on his face walked around me. It made me mad! I tried to go faster and catch up with him, but all I could see was his back side rapidly fading into the distance. He made it to the finish line well before I did!

I remember thinking to myself that I had trained myself to run, while this man had well learned the art of WALKING!

As we read our BIBLES we learn of a man who had also mastered the art of WALKING during the course of many years. He had the distinction of being a man who walked with God 300 years! There are some spiritual lessons we can learn from a man named Enoch, and his “Marathon” walk with God.

God is greatly pleased when His children learn to walk with Him! There are three reflections on our learning to walk with God...

1. Walking is the means by which we demonstrate our faith in God.

In the annals of that famous faith chapter of Hebrews 11 we read of the exploits of Enoch. In verses 5 & 6 we read: “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. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Let us note especially of Enoch’s faithful walk:

- He pleased God because he believed in Him. A walk with God is the first recognition of His unseen presence. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if any of us had this testimony, that we also “pleased God.”
- Without a hunger for God His existence is but a matter of indifference. Faith sees God in its walk.
- “To know God, to see God in everything and everywhere in our daily life is to be conscious of His presence so that we always walk with Him-This is true nobility of man.” –A. Murray
- Previously, for the first 65 years of Enoch’s life (according to Genesis 5) he walked according to the course of a dying world – Ephes. 2:2. But now he was reconciled to God -2 Cor. 5:20, for, “can two walk together except they be agreed?”

–Amos 3:3

A walk with our God (as with Enoch) would signify a voluntary act, a steady advance, and a progress in the spiritual.

2. Walking is the means God uses to reward us. Enoch ended up being taken bodily (translated) to be with the Lord eternally!

- He had this testimony among men before

his translation that he pleased God. V. 11:5

- He definitely walked by faith, and not by sight -2 Cor. 5:7. The only revelation he would have was *within* his relationship of his walk with God.

- But it was enough! He walked in the light that the Lord gave him! “If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another...”-1 John 1:7
- Enoch began his walk with the Lord at age 65 after the birth of his first son, Methusela, and he was able to walk with the Lord continuously for 300 years! –Gen. 5:21-22
- Enoch pleased God in the midst of a generation that greatly displeased God – Gen. 6:5, and would soon perish in a world-wide flood.
- This world was slated for absolute destruction. Yet Enoch bore a evangelistic witness of the Lord’s imminent judgment before a terminal generation –Jude 14.
- Just think of it! God loved this man so much that He “translated” him from one place to another! The Scriptures likewise tell us that when we “...walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing...” that God “...delivers us from the power of darkness, and translates us into the kingdom of His own dear Son.” –Col. 1:10-13 Enoch was “translated” before God removed him from the wicked world. We are likewise translated if we please and walk with God!
- One day God rescued (raptured) him out of the world preceding the judgment of a great flood. It is our “blessed hope” that one day we too will be raptured out of this world to be with Him for eternity! -Titus 2:13; 1 Thess. 4:13-18
- But being *translated* denotes more than just an escape from physical death. Everything in our fallen world bears the witness of the

stain of sin, the curse of God's broken Law, the wages of sin. Our faith, like Enoch's should rest in the invisible, bringing the future near. Walking with God, staying near to Him, the heart is raised above this miserable world. We can experience the power of our Savior's resurrection –Phil. 3:10. We are commanded to *set our* "...affections on things above" –Col. 3:1-3; for our citizenship is there –Phil. 3:20-21; because like the world of Enoch before the flood, our world rapidly "...*passeth away with the lusts thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever*" -1 John 2:17.

3. Walking with our God – Five Practical Applications. -1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

- 1) We must learn to walk with a forward step. Walking is simply the placing of one step in front of the other. Marathons are won one step at a time! But we must not quit, nor sit down at the sidelines. It is the steadiness of our walk that God desires. Paul the Apostle tells the Thessalonians: "*We...exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.*" –V. 1:1 My friend, Are you further along in your spiritual journey than you were a year or so ago? One week ago?
- 2) We must learn to walk a pure walk in holiness. In order to win a prize in a contest, one must compete by the rules. God likewise calls us to be a sanctified (clean) vessel unto Him. "*For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication...For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness*" –Vs. 3-7. Are you exercising self control, keeping yourself in purity unto your spouse, as well as unto our betrothed Lord Jesus Christ? Remember: It is always easier to avoid temptation than to

resist temptation! Watch where you walk!

- 3) We must learn to walk in brotherly love toward each other. Vs. 4:9-10 "*...for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another...do it toward all the brethren...that ye increase more and more.*"

The mark of God's children is that we love all the brethren, not just the ones we agree with the most. We should also be getting better and better at this virtue. We are spiritually related to each other, hence the term "brethren" applies!

- 4) We must walk within the occupation God has given us. –Vs. 11-12 "*And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands...That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.*"

God makes it clear that we are to do honest work for a living. This is not only a testimony toward those outside the faith, but also is a good practical means of supplying our needs. Even in these "last days" it is God's will for us to provide for ourselves and our families by the "sweat of our brows."

- 5) Walk within the reality of our Lord's imminent return. –Vs. 4:13-18 "*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...*"

Are you prepared for our Lord's coming at any moment? If we look for His coming each day it will change the way we live for sure! One day He will return! Watch! –Matt. 25:13

Prayer: "Lord, I want to walk with You, from this time on. Please forgive me of my sin, and the path I have followed. Grant me the grace to please only You, walking each day in Your presence and reality of Your coming." –Amen



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