

Podcast 272 Walking with God

Adam walked with God, worked with God, and communed with God. This is the blessed existence that we were meant to experience.

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve.

Steve: Today we're going to have an interesting discussion that I hope will not only be interesting but stimulating and inspiring, because it inspires me. I hope it inspires all of us. It's about a man named Enoch, who appears three times in Scripture. He was the seventh, after Adam, mentioned first in the book of Genesis. He lived for 365 years.

I'm going to read a passage and then we'll pray. "When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him." (Genesis 5:21-24)

Father, we want to know more about this man that walked with you and was transformed to such a degree that he was translated. One of few people in the Bible that we know who was translated, and I pray that You will us give us insight as we search the scriptures this morning and as we contemplate this man and his walk with You. I pray that You'll put a desire in each of our hearts to walk with You as did Enoch, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Steve: Enoch also appears in Hebrews 11:5-6. "By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him."

It's interesting to me because I often quote the sixth verse, and I never connected it until this morning as I was preparing for this podcast. I knew that Enoch was translated because the text reads that he was not. God took him in Genesis, and then it reaffirms this in Hebrews.

It's by faith that Enoch was taken up, we learn in Hebrews where we read that it's impossible to please God without believing that He exists. It's impossible to draw near to Him without believing that He exists, and that He rewards those who seek Him. Enoch obviously was a person that believed in seeking God, drawing nearer to God, and that God would reward him if he would.

Where do you think the third place where Enoch appears in scripture? Jude 14. There's about four verses there, but it starts off in the 14th verse. "It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied." (Jude 14) Enoch is in Genesis. Enoch is in the fathers of the faith hall of fame in Hebrews 11. He is also in Jude 14.

I've wondered a lot about Enoch. Most of my wondering is my journey, wanting to be a good father and a husband, has driven me to God. It was praying for God to help me to love Him so that I could pass on that love to my children that took my journey to a new level in 2011 because I saw truth afresh in Deuteronomy 6.

"You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength" Then it says, "His word shall be in our heart and then we shall teach some diligently to our children while we sit in our house, rise up," etc. That motivation to be a godly father and a godly husband motivated me to draw near to God.

When I read Genesis 5, I wonder if that's what happened with Enoch because it said, "Enoch had lived 65 years." Then it says, "He fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah for 300 years."

I wonder if it was Enoch seeing that little Methuselah tagging along behind him, wanting to be like his dad that stirred him, and maybe caused him to take his game up a notch.

Enoch, as we read, was the seventh from Adam. Interestingly Enoch overlapped the life of Adam for over 300 years. He only lived 365 years, but they lived at the same time for three centuries. Perhaps it was Enoch wanting to take his game up a notch that drew him to Adam.

I don't know where they all lived. I don't know how close, I don't know what the proximity was. This was before the flood so the Earth was different, but perhaps Enoch started making excursions to Adam's house, because there was something about Adam's wisdom and his experiences, that he wanted to partake of.

I'm picturing Enoch sitting on Adam's front porch, I don't know if they had front porches, but let's just say that he was sitting there, now I'm doing sanctified speculation, perhaps Enoch was one of those young men that had an appetite to know God.

There was just something in him that drew him to God and he wanted to talk to Adam. Perhaps it was wanting advice as a father, perhaps it was wanting to know God, but he started seeking out wisdom from Adam. Why Adam?

We're going to do a little study on Adam here, a brief one. Genesis 1:26-27, God said, "Let us make man in our image after our likeness." Next verse, "God created man in His own image. In the image of God, He created him male and female. He created them."

There's another verse in Genesis 3 that gives us a little glimpse into the Garden of Eden because we don't see much of what it was like. I wish we could because scripture begins with the ideal, and it ends with the ideal. It begins with God having fellowship with His

people, and then sin entered, and everything else changed. From then till the book of Revelation, the Bible records a process of restoration and redemption. As sin has to be dealt with, the devil has to be dealt with, while God has to restore His people.

We have to spend some time on what we do have. Here's what it says in Genesis 3:8, this is after they had eaten the forbidden fruit, after they had sinned, "They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day." I'm almost speechless reading that sentence. They heard the sound of the Lord.

What would that sound like? What noise did God make as He was walking in the Garden of Eden? It was in the cool of the day so I'm assuming it's the evening. Could be the morning, but perhaps it was in the evening. After the work of the day is done, God comes and they have fellowship.

I've thought of two songs now to try to help us comprehend this. The first one is called "Nothing Between My Soul and my Savior."

"Nothing between my soul and the Savior, not of this world's delusive dream.
I have renounced all sinful pleasure, Jesus is mine. There's nothing between.
Nothing between my soul and the Savior, so that His blessed face may be seen.
Nothing preventing the least of His favor, keep the way clear, let nothing between."

This is hard for us to imagine, but Adam and Eve communed with God having never sinned. There was no sin stain. There was no shame. There was no guilt. There was no memory of sin. There was nothing between them and God. They had an absolutely clean slate.

They communed with God. Perhaps they talked about working in the garden, perhaps they had a discussion about how to name the animals? God gave them some ideas.

"How shall we tend these trees?" God gave them ideas. They talked about what the work that God had designed them to do. Adam was doing exactly what God had created him to do. He was completely in sync with his creator.

It wasn't toil, it wasn't sweat. This is so hard for us to get our mind around. He woke up in the morning with nothing but absolute joy being able to do what he was designed to do, and then to commune with his dad in the evening and talk about what he had done all day, and make plans for the next day, and sleep blessedly and get up in the morning and do it again.

The Garden of Eden was heaven on earth. Adam was walking with God, working with God, and communing with God. This is the blessed existence that our life was meant to be.

I thought of another hymn called "In the Garden."

I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.

The last verse is not true because Adam and Eve did know that joy, and perhaps that was their discussion. God would say, "Adam, I'm so glad that I made you and I created you in My image and likeness. I love what I've designed and created and you're My son, My co-heir and My co-worker."

Adam would say, "I'm so glad you're my dad." They had an incredible communion as they walked with each other. We don't know how long this continued. We have no idea how long it was before he and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and destroyed this blessed fellowship.

Now sin enters and He had new feelings. Think about this. Adam was the first person to experience guilt and shame, regret, sadness. He had this big hole inside of him. You and I know what those things feel like. This is part of the human condition now.

This is something that every one of us experiences because we have not only sinned ourself, we have inherited sin through the the fall. "We're born in sin did my mother conceive me," this is what David said.

When we are born again, we get a little taste of what it would be like to commune with God. We experience a little bit of what it's like to have guilt removed and shame removed, and we're forgiven.

We feel light, and the sky is bluer and things change. We start tasting joy but we still have to combat guilt, shame, regret, sadness, and we have to work at it. Now when Adam gets up in the morning, he's sweating. And there are weeds. The whole creation is groaning. Work is toil.

I'm trying to paint a picture the best I can. OK, now, let's bring Enoch and Adam together again. Here's a young man, 65 years old, talking to Adam who I think is around 600 years old. I can imagine this conversation. What was it like in the garden?

Scott: He came up to Adam and said, "Hey, great, great, great, great, great grandfather."

Steve: I don't know what he'd call him. He might say, "I noticed you don't have a navel."

Scott: [laughs]

Steve: It's true because Adam did not have a navel, for was not born from a woman. He was born from dust. God took the dirt and He breathed on it. Perhaps Enoch said,

"What was it like to walk with God each day I would love to walk with God like that. I would love to experience His presence."

Since we are imagining, we can be fairly certain that Adam taught him principles that were effective. You and I know that Enoch can't walk with God just because he wants to. Enoch has his own sin.

Adam learned about sin in the third chapter. He learned that because of his sin, something now has to die, and so Adam experienced death. Animals died, so that he and Eve had garments to cover their nakedness. "The LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them." (Genesis 3:21)

This is a foreshadowing of Jesus dying to cover us from our sin. I don't mean to jump ahead too fast, but you get the picture. Adam learned about animal sacrifice, and he learned when his sons fought that there's a difference between your own offering and offering, like Abel, the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions.

"In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering." (Genesis 4:3-4) Abel knew that there was a good offering, and he knew the difference between offering the fruit of the ground which Cain did.

There is so much packed into here. Our forefathers were not dumb. Adam was the smartest man that ever lived. You might say Solomon, Jesus definitely, because He's God, but up until that point Adam's the guy that you want on your team if you are in a game show. If you're playing Trivia Pursuit, Adam's the man to pick.

Adam man walked with God like nobody ever had. And nobody would, until Jesus came. We see in Leviticus, "That the life of the flesh is in the blood and I've given it for

you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it's the blood that makes atonement, by the life." (Leviticus 17:11)

Noah knew about sacrifices way back in Genesis 8. As soon as the flood begins to recede, "Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar." (Genesis 8:20)

Adam, Abel, Noah, they know about these things. I believe that knowledge was passed on to Enoch. Enoch began seeking God by faith, as it says in Hebrews 11. I don't know if they were offering sacrifices for their sins back in Genesis, but we certainly see offerings taking place in Genesis.

Enoch began to learn, from Adam perhaps. He began to learn what it was like to know God, and to walk with Him, and how to cover himself from sin, how to offer sacrifices, perhaps burnt offerings. Enoch was transformed. Enoch had learned how to walk with God. The result was that he was taken, he was translated. He was so transformed that he didn't have to die.

In Exodus that there's another man that spoke to God and walked with God, and that was Moses. "Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend." (Exodus 33:11)

"When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him." (Exodus 34:29-30) "When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face." (Exodus 34:33)

Moses walked with God and was changed in the process. He was transformed by being in God's presence. Enoch, perhaps, followed that same pattern by spending time with God and walking with God. He was transformed, and he was able to be translated.

"Thus it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.'" (1 Corinthians 15:45-49)

"To this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:15-18)

We know in 1 John 3:1, "When He appears, we're going to be like Him because we're going to see Him as He is." This give me an appetite to believe that I can be transformed into His image. What I'm wanting to do is get an appetite to simply walk with God like Enoch did.

Micah 6:8. You'll know this scripture. "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

We know that Jesus is no longer here but is at the right hand of the Father. We also know that before He left, He said, I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,

because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:15-17)

It's the Spirit of God that we need to visit on His front porch, like Enoch sat on Adams front porch. We need to get to know the spirit. Paul's wonderful benediction in 2 Corinthians 13:14, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion, or fellowship, of the Holy Ghost be with you all."

This is what's held out to all of us, that we would inherit and experience that blessing. That we would saturate ourselves in God's grace and His love, and then experience the communion of the Holy Spirit and walk with the Spirit, which is to walk with God, Amen.

There are other people that walk with God in the Bible. Genesis 6:9 "These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

Genesis 17:1 "When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless."

Genesis 48:15, Isaac blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,

Beautiful stuff, when you think about it. David, obviously walked with God, as it says in 2 Chronicles 6:14, "You will walk before me as David your father walked."

These are people in Scripture that have walked with God, and I believe He's holding it out to us. I want to be one of those people that walks with God, communes with God, and spends time in His presence.

Father, thank You for this little glimpse that we have into the garden. Thank You for these insights that You've given us about Enoch. Thank You for how wonderful the fellowship must have been with Adam. Now, You have come to restore that. You've come to draw us to God. You've come to take away our sin, and our regret, and our shame, and our guilt, and all of that, and You've borne it on the cross. Thank You for that sacrifice. I pray now that as You've sent Your spirit that we would embrace the Spirit and walk with the Spirit, and that You will give us an appetite, a divine appetite to commune with You, walk with You, and be in Your presence, in Jesus' name, Amen.