

WALK BY FAITH



Facing the Test of Authenticity!

Sunday, August 25, 2024

Hebrews 11:5-6; Genesis 5:19-24

Have you ever asked someone “Are you a Christian?” Have you ever had someone ask you “Are you a Christian?” In our culture and country, especially in the South, most people respond with an affirmative “Yes, I am a Christian.” It would seem there are many who claim membership in the family of faith, but there is not much evidence proving the authenticity of their faith. In Hebrews 11, the roll call of God’s faith filled followers continues with a man called Enoch.

Enoch’s life was summed up in one sentence, “Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” God was pleased with Enoch because Enoch’s behavior demonstrated genuine belief.

James 2:14 says, “What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?” When the authenticity of your faith is being tested, how do you know if you have passed the test? Through the life of Enoch we learn that God is pleased with you when your behavior demonstrates genuine belief. Studying the life of Enoch we learn...

Key Thought: A person of authentic faith acknowledges and pursues God daily!

Authentic faith is recognizable

Believe, Faith, Faithfulness. The verb is *pisteuo* (πιστευω), the noun *pistis* (πιστις), the adjective *pistos* (πιστος). In classical Greek *pisteuo* (πιστευω) meant to believe, trust, trust in, put faith in, rely upon a person or thing. In the passive voice it meant I am entrusted with a thing, have it committed to me. *Pistis* (Πιστις) meant trust in others, faith. *Pistos* (Πιστος) meant faithful, trusty, true, used of persons one believes or trusts.¹

¹ Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). Wuest’s word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

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Enoch's belief in God changed everything. "Belief in" God is faith. Faith that lives every day acknowledging and seeking God.

- **By God – walk**

There is a transition from "belief about" to "belief in." There is a transfer of trust.

Walking with God involves: direction and agreement (Amos 3:3)

- **By others - witness**

Authentic faith is rewarded

- **God's presence**

- **God's promises**

The test of the authenticity of your faith is not in your perfection, but in your pursuit of Jesus Christ! Romans 1:17 (ESV) "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"

Please do not misunderstand, we cannot earn our salvation, nor can we expect to receive forgiveness on our own merit. Salvation is completely the work of the Lord. However, the evidence that we have "saving faith" is best seen in a changed life. Most of us have heard it said, "Simply standing in a garage doesn't make me a car does it?" Simply "saying" you are a Christian doesn't make it so. Romans 10 is very clear...

"That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." (Romans 10:9-10, NASB95)

James says, "Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, 'You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.'" (James 2:17-18, NASB95)

When facing the test of authenticity, can you say with confidence, "Yes, I have an authentic faith?"